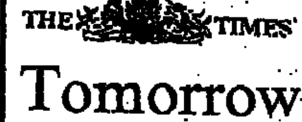
THE TIMES

No 62,018 FRIDAY DECEMBER 21 1984 20p



Tomorrow

Christmas teasers
Be a winner with the Prize Jumbo Crossword and *The Times* quiz

JUMBO

See it all
Your complete guide to seven days of TV films for the holiday

What a show!
A critical eye on the Christmas productions and pantomimes

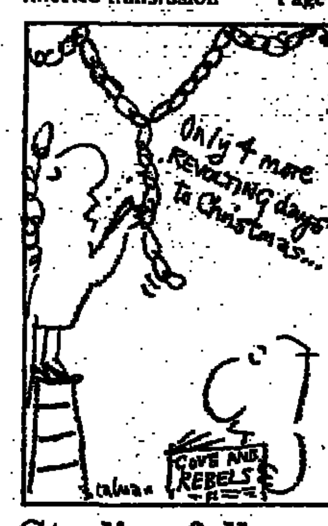
Self-destruction
Julian Haviland asks if the Tories will continue to shoot themselves in the foot

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio competition prize of £2,000 was shared by three winners yesterday. Mr Benjamin Plant, of Taverham, Norfolk, Mr Roger Palmer, of Hawkhurst, Kent, and Mrs Christine Bailey of Cobham, Surrey, each received £666.66p. Portfolio list, page 20; how to play, information service, back page.

56 patients in peril from Aids

Forty-one people in England and Wales and 15 in Scotland have been exposed to the danger of contracting the fatal disease Aids, through blood transfusions from two different sources. A baby was born with Aids antibodies in his system after the mother received an infected transfusion Page 3



Sterling falls to $1.1663

The pound had another weak day on the foreign exchanges, dropping 77 points against the dollar to a new low of $1.1663. The sterling index, which measures the pound's average value, fell 0.3 to 73.0, its lowest-ever level. Sterling's weakness resulted mainly from oil price uncertainties. Page 17

Belgrano killing

The Home Office is to investigate a Labour MP's allegation that British intelligence officers murdered a woman while searching for documents concerning the sinking of the General Belgrano Page 2

Libya prisoners

As the Foreign Office awaited further news of an Englishwoman held in Libya for 14 months, an English teacher made his second court appearance in Tripoli Page 6

Opec delay

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries has shelved any decision on a new oil pricing struture and a code for its members until December 27 Earlier report, page 17

Civil Aviation Bill shelved until Stansted decision

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The Government yesterday abandoned its Civil Aviation Bill in the face of insuperable pressure from opponents in its own as well as in Opposition ranks.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, said in the Commons that since MPS on the Bill's standing committee had twice prevented it from being discussed, the Government proposed that further consideration of it should be postponed until ministers had taken a decision on the proposed expansion of Stansted airport in Essex.

But few MPs yesterday expected the Bill to return in its present form, unless the Government were to accept without qualification the planning inspector's proposal that Stansted should be developed to handle 15 million passengers a year as soon as possible. This possibility is seen at Westminster as growing steadily more remote.

Mr Peter Snape, chief Labour spokesman on transport, said that the decision was a unique humiliation for Mr Ridley which, with a little commonsense, would not have occurred.

The Civil Aviation Bill has no formal connection with the Stansted report, as Mr Ridley and his colleagues have maintained. But it provides, among other things, powers for the minister to put a limit on the number of flights at London's main airport, Heathrow, and other airports owned by the British Airports Authority.

Mr Ridley's opponents have argued that the Bill, if passed, would preempt the decision on Stansted which ministers expect to make in the late spring or early summer.

Ministers reflected yesterday that the autumn sitting of Parliament, which ends today, has been dismal for them.

In addition to Mr Patrick Jenkin's torment this week in two appearances in the Commons to defend the cuts in local authority expenditure, there has been Sir Keith Joseph's defeat by the sheer weight of Conservative hostility on the question of student grants, and yesterday the frustration of Mr Ridley by an alliance of members on either side of the House.

Mr Ridley's manner of conceding defeat was such as to lose him support even among those who approved of his decision.

Mr John Wilkinson, Conservative MP for Ruislip, Northwood, and chairman of the backbench aviation committee, said that it would have been better if Mr Ridley had said unequivocally that he was withdrawing the Bill in its entirety.

Mr Alan Haselhurst, Conswervative MP for Saffron Walden, who is a leader in the campaign to prevent large-scale expansion at Stansted, said that Mr Ridley's persistent statements that there was no connection between the Bill and the decision on airports policy was bound to exasperate his colleagues.

Mr Ridley had expected the anger of MPs representing constituencies near Heathrow where residents fear increased noise from its unlimited expansion. Sir Humphrey Atkins, Conservative member for Spelthorne, said that millions of Londoners were looking for the minister to honour the Government's promise to limit development.

Mr Toby Jessel, Conservative MP for Twickenham, made the same point. Mr Ridley replied that it was not his fault, but the fault of those who had frustrated the Bill's progress in committee.

● The Government yesterday gave the go-ahead for new capital projects at 11 council-controlled regional airports in England and Wales. They include a helicopter terminal at Humberside airport and a runway extension at Cardiff.

Parliament, page 4

Heseltine facing inquiry on Levene

By Philip Webster
Political Reporter

Mr Michael Heseltine, the Secretary of State for Defence, and Mr Peter Levene, his new Chief of Defence Procurement, are likely to be summoned before a senior Commons committee in the new year amid all-party disquiet over Mr Levene's controversial £95,000 a year appointment.

This emerged at Westminster last night after a Commons row over Mr Levene and his replacement as head of United Scientific Holdings, a big defence contractor, by Sir Frank Cooper, former Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence, during which Mr Neil Kinnock remarked: "The whole appointment and everything connected with it stinks."

The Commons Select Committee on Defence earlier this year investigated Mr Heseltine's reorganisations plans. Member said last night that they had been given no inkling of the impending appointment of Mr Levens or the creation of a new post of Chief of Defence Equipment Collaboration, for the man he replaces, Mr David Perry.

Committee members are bound to raise other issues that continued to worry MPs of all parties yesterday, including the effect on civil service morals of the appointment, Mr Levene's high salary and fears of conflict of interest in the appointment of Sir Frank Cooper.

During furious exchanges with Mr John Biffen, the Commons leader, who was standing in for the Prime

Continued on back page, col 4

Thatcher assures Hong Kong people

From David Bonavia, Hong Kong

Mrs Margaret Thatcher said last night that reaction in Hong Kong to the Sino-British agreement on the territory's reversion to China seemed to be "good, very good".

At a reception for some 500 leading citizens at Government House, she told me: "Think how it would have been if we had not started this process two years ago. It would have been very difficult now."

In an address to an unprecedented joint session of the Executive and Legislative Councils, the Prime Minister said: "We have over 12 years to prepare together for the changes which lie ahead. I believe that you will rise to the challenge."

She arrived yesterday from Peking, where she signed the agreement under which Hong Kong will revert to Chinese sovereignty as a special administrative region in 1997. Today she will hold a press conference before leaving for the United States.

The Hong Kong public reacted with calm to the signing of the agreement, having known for several months what it would contain. It allows for the territory to retain its capitalist system and British-style laws for fifty years after 1997.

However, it is thought inevitable that a considerable number of people will leave in the intervening period if they can find countries to take them.

Mrs Thatcher told the joint session of the two councils that the Hong Kong people's economic success in the post-war period was so striking that "our prime commitment could only be to them".

The Prime Minister, who spoke to China's top leaders in Peking, said: "They assured me, that for their part, the agreement would be faithfully implemented.

"I know you are anxious that other countries may not accept the new passport after 1997." This was a reference to travel documents which will be issued to the two-million or so Hong Kong citizens. Under terms of the 1981 Nationality Act, they have no automatic right of abode in the United Kingdom.

From 1997 on they will be issued some new form of pseudo-British travel document, but their "British" citizenship will not be transferable to their children. The issue has caused much more bitterness in Hong Kong than the agreement on transfer of sovereignty.

Hong Kong 9
Photograph 9

Mrs Thatcher said Britain would "explain" to other countries the validity of the future travel document.

She added: "Premier Zhao Ziyang told me that in the drafting of the basic law (Hong Kong's future constiution), the views of Hong Kong's people would be solicited on a wide basis up till 1990." This is evidently the date China has set itself for drafting of the law.

Mrs Thatcher said the agreement laid down the principles of free enterprise, free-trade policies and a free port, with free tranfer of capital funds in and out of the territory before and after 1997.

"Hong Kong is a going concern with a future stretching into the next century and beyond." She paid tribute to the PPpatience and forbearance" of the people of Hong Kong

'Best possible Christmas present'



Mrs Gillick: A victory smile outside the Law Courts. Photograph: John Manning

Appeal Court win for mother in pill battle

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Doctors were yesterday barred by the Court of Appeal from prescribing contraceptives to girls under 16 without their parents' consent.

In a unanimous judgment, the court ruled that Department of Health guidance to doctors that in exceptional cases they can prescribe the pill without consulting the girl's parents, was unlawful.

And in a decision that represents at least a temporary victory for the six-year campaign by Mrs Victoria Gillick, the Roman Catholic mother of 10 from Wisbech in Cambridgeshire, for parents to have the absolute right to be consulted, the court granted that none of her children be given any contraceptive, abortion advice or treatment without her consent, save in an emergency or after a court order.

Mrs Gillick yesterday greeted the judgment as "the best Christmas present for millions of families there could possibly have been". But the Department of Health, which was granted leave to appeal, is thought likely to take the case to the House of Lords. Ministers expected to make a statement to Parliament today, and the department said it was considering whether it now had to withdraw its guidance.

Family planning and children's organizations yesterday gave a warning that unless the judgment was reversed there would be more unwanted teenage pregnancies and abortions.

The British Medical Association said: "We think parents are less likely, not more likely, to find out about early sexual activity because girls simply won't go to their doctors and there will be no-one responsible trying to get the parents involved". Under-age sex would not stop because of the ruling and the association feared an increase in unwanted pregnancies

The BMA said it was taking urgent legal advice to discover whether doctors already providing contraceptives to under-age girls had now to tell their parents, or could wait on the department's decision on an appeal.

The Children's Legal Centre said the judgment removed young people's right to consent to treatment, and denied them a confidential relationship with their doctor. "Young people may well no longer dare to consult a doctor when they need one". A jubilant Mrs Gillick, however, said the judgment was "almost too good to be true. It is a real shot in the arm for all those parents who thought what was happening was wrong.

Law Report 9
Leading article 15

"Doctors have done an awful lot of damage to families and the health of young girls. I just hope the BMA will now work with parents to look after their children properly, rather than work against them".

She did not believe the ruling would mean more unwanted pregnancies. "Unwanted pregnancies occur when children try to look after themselves". She believed most doctors would "heave a huge sigh of relief" that the General Medical Council's ruling that doctors could face disciplinary action if they broke confidentiality and told a girl's parents against her wishes, now appeared to be "more or less null and void".

Giving judgement, Lord Justice Parker said people could hold strong and sincere views about whether doctors should prescribe contraceptives to children under 16 without the parents' knowledge. But the appeal was concerned only with the legal position.

In law, he said, a girl under 16 could give no valid consent,

Mr Michael Meacher, Labour's chief social services spokesman, last night called on the Government to legislate to override the court's decision.

Miners in Notts vote out rule

By Craig Seaton

Nottinghamshire miners' leaders yesterday inflicted a crucial blow to the National Union of Mineworkers by voting through rule changes which will protect the area from the authority and discipline of the national body.

The "separatist" move by the Nottinghamshire Area Council of the NUM was the outcome of 10 months of bitter division between the moderate, working coalfield and the left-dominated national executive. It went ahead less than 24 hours after the national union failed to gain a temporary High Court injunction to stop the change. Its legality will be tested at a full hearing next year.

Mr Ray Chadburn, the Nottinghamshire NUM president, denied yesterday that the area had set up an independent, breakaway union, but conceded that the national executive would react with "utmost concern." He said: "It is of paramount importance that I prevent, at all costs, any breakaway in Nottinghamshire."

The area council meeting of mandated delegates in Mansfield agreed by 27 votes to 4 to remove Rule 30 which states that where there are conflicts between national and area rules "the rules of the national union shall apply". It becomes effective on January 1.

Moderate officials in Nottinghamshire, where most miners have defied the strike, were convinced that the change was essential to protect the area from the "star chamber" discipline the national executive was preparing for those who broke ranks during the strike. Nottinghamshire miners voted overwhelmingly for the rule change in pithead ballots.

Continued on back page, col 5

Union stays defiant as fine seized

By David Felton
Labour Correspondent

Britain's largest union is set to continue its policy of refusing to co-operate with the Government's employment legislation even if the TUC has a change of heart in a review to be undertaken in the new year.

Mr Ronald Todd, general secretary elect of the Transport and General Workers Union, confirmed that a £200,000 contempt fine which it had refused to pay had been collected by the Queen's Remembrancer, a High Court official, together with substantial costs. The fine was imposed because the union refused to call off a strike at Austin Rover to allow a ballot to be held.

Mr Todd, said yesterday that his union's policy would remain unchanged, at least until the delegate conference in the summer at which he would be "very surprised" if the union changed its mind on the employment legislation.

He was speaking against a background of growing pressure from centre and right-wing union leaderships for a re-appraisal of the TUC position of opposing the legislation in view of recent court actions brought by employers.

He told labour and industrial correspondents: "We are not prepared to succumb to the legislation," and said that any agreement by the unions to recognize the legislation would be tantamount to agreeing to the Government's objective of rendering the unions impotent.

"Sometimes you have to stand up and fight and if you've got a bloody nose and have taken a beating in round 14 that might be time to reconsider but you don't do that in round two, even if you are fighting a bully," Mr Todd added.

Gorbachov offers Britain big trade opportunities

British trade specialists were yesterday feeling particularly buoyed at the prospect of vastly increased business with the Soviet Union, after a speech in London by Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the leader of the Soviet delegation to Britain.

Lord Jellicoe, chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, said afterwards: "The climate for Soviet-UK trade is better now than for a very long time."

Mr Gorbachov told businessmen and bankers that he and Mrs Thatcher had assessed the likely increase in business in the near future as being between 40 and 50 per cent.

He charted the decline of British sales to his country, from a time when Britain had been the principal western supplier. After mentioning bids that were being drawn up by large corporations, such as John Brown Engineering, Davy McKee and ICI, in chemicals and agriculture, he added that there would now be "great opportunities not only for large but small and medium-sized British companies".

Gorbachov's day, page 6

Chinese art treasures flood West

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Art treasures smuggled out of China are flooding the Western art market. Prices plummeted in many areas at Christie's and Sotheby's London sales last week and dealers report that they can find buyers only for extreme rarities.

Since the Communists gained control in 1949 there has been only a trickle of minor antiquities out of China through government controlled channels. Now ceramics and bronzes from newly discovered burial sites are flowing out of China – unofficially – on a massive scale.

Small scale smuggling is said to have begun about four years ago through Macao to Hong Kong, and most of the material was quickly absorbed by Hong Kong's busy antiques trade.

A pot can be bought in China for $10, the average monthly wage, and sold in the West for up to $400,000.

This autumn the flow of material has turned into a flood. Roughly half the lots in Christie's December auctions in New York and London were left unsold.

The material flowing out of China is mostly repetitive and not of great quality, and prices in many fields have dropped to around 20 per cent of levels five years ago.

The black glazed bottles made at Henan during the Song dynasty (960-1271 a.d.) lightly decorated with leaf sprays, used to fetch £15,000 or more. There were five at Christie's last week with a top price of £4,752 and two unsold at £1,200.

Spectrum, Page 12

Budget Day is March 19

Budget Day will be March 19, a few days later than in each of the last four years but two or three weeks earlier than was customary in the 1970s

What is unusual is the decision by the Treasury to make the date known yesterday, nearly three months in advance, "just to be helpful," officials said. The convention has been for the Leader of the Commons to announce it after the Christmas recess.

The White Paper on public expenditure from 1985-86 to 1987-88 is due to be published in mid-January.

Dust and adrenalin on Gandhi campaign trail

From Trevor Fishlock
Amethi, Uttar Pradesh

"Come on", Mr Gandhi says. "Let's go for a cup of tea."

He strides smartly off the road and heads for the village tea stall, pied-pipering a chanting, jostling, excited crowd. It has been like this, in village after village, all the way across the dusty plain. Mr Gandhi is having the time of his life, riding the Rajiv wave.

Though short of sleep after so many 2 am rallies, he is bright-eyed and in good humour, living on adrenalin, confident of overwhelming victory and a solid mandate for change.

The tea stall man pours tea into little red clay cups. Mr Gandhi holds informal court in a space in the crowd. "Here", he says, handing me a cup, "have some tea." Everyone needs plenty of tea to wash down the dust, for Mr Gandhi's princely progress through his sprawling constituency is gritty and gruelling work.

No saunterer he. He marches through villages at a determined light-infantry pace, and enthusiastic people trot and run behind him, kicking up a plume of dust that rises like smoke from a signal fire.

Men cheer and boys shout. Women look at the handsome leader, and grey grandfathers, resting on their sticks, nod their heads as another Nehru passes. Scampering dogs join in the fun, goats scatter and camels look round to see what all the fuss is about.

Mr Gandhi has a winner's demeanour. He is dressed in white tunic and trousers, a blue-edged scarf around his neck, sandals on his feet. His eyes, which can have a reflective and brooding quality, are now shining and excited, his security men are watchful, but he is remarkably accessible and answers questions from reporters who fall in step with him at the head of the crowd.

People press letters and petitions on him and he talks to everyone who engages him. This is one of the ways in which India works. Access is vital, and people need to feel that they can get close to their leaders.

Yes, he says to questioners, bringing peace to the troubled state of Punjab is a priority. He looks forward to making a Punjab initiative after the election. Yes, non-aignment will remain a foreign policy keystone.

He feels he is winning the election because "We are giving hope to the people". He gives a broad smile when someone asks if he consulted an astrologer and says a firm no. Does he *feel elated?* He pounces on the word. "Yes", he says, "elated".

Continued on back page, col 1



Rajiv Gandhi: Elated

Home Office to investigate Dalyell's murder claim over Belgrano documents

By Michael Horsnell

Allegations that an elderly woman was murdered by British intelligence officers whom she caught searching her home for sensitive documents on the sinking of the Argentine Cruiser, General Belgrano, are to be examined by the Home Office.

The startling claim was made early yesterday in the Commons by Mr Tom Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow, who has unremittingly questioned the Government about the sinking.

The body of the woman, Miss Hilda Murrell, aged 78, an international rose expert, was found three days after she died in March, about six miles from her home in Shrewsbury.

There were signs of a break-in and struggle at the house where, Mr Dalyell said, intelligence officers may have believed Miss Murrell kept documents about the Belgrano affair deposited with her by her nephew Commander Rob Green, who had held a key position in naval intelligence during the Falklands War and passed the signal ordering the sinking.

Commander Green, who thought the war unnecessary and has since left the Navy, was not available at his home in Dorset to comment on the Dalyell allegations, though it is understood that he did not deposit documents with his aunt.

West Mercia police said yesterday that there was no evidence to support the allegations and the Shrewsbury coroner, Colonel David Crawford-Clarke, who recorded a verdict of unlawful killing, described them as "utter rubbish".

Mr Giles Shaw, Minister of State at the Home Office, said yesterday that Mr Dalyell's claims, made as MPs sat all night debating the Consolidated Fund Bill, a technical measure which allows them to raise almost any topic, would be given full consideration.

Mr Dalyell told *The Times* that although he was satisfied with this undertaking he ultimately wanted a select committee of privy councillors to consider the operation of the security services.

Mr Dalyell, who refused to disclose his sources, said last night: "Before the police or the coroner issued their denials they should have read my speech in Hansard."

He added: "I do not wish to advance any theory why Miss Murrell's body was found six miles from her home. Nor does it make any difference that Commander Green did not lodge any documents with her it was believed that she had when her home was broken into. The circumstances of Miss Murrell's death have not been explained.

Mr Dalyell said he was given to understand that there was no premeditated intention to kill Miss Murrell but she had returned home to find intruders.

In the Commons he said: "Being a lady of courage and spunk often found in that generation Miss Murrell had fought them. They too had to fight, injured her and panicked. Things went disastrously wrong. She was then killed or left to die from hypothermia, and the cover-up had to begin because the searchers were members of British intelligence, I am informed."

Mr Dalyell went on to dismiss earlier newspaper suggestions that Miss Murrell, an anti-nuclear campaigner who was preparing a paper for the inquiry into the Sizewell B project, had been murdered for her views.

At the inquest earlier this month Chief Supt David Cole, head of West Mercia CID, which has been conducting a murder inquiry for nine months, said he believed Miss Murrell was attacked by a burglar looking for cash.

A police statement on Mr Dalyell's claims said yesterday: "Allegations of this nature have been fully investigated by the force, and these particular lines of inquiry are not being pursued further at the moment. No evidence has come to light which has substantiated these allegations."

Parliament, page 4



Games galore: Mr Hall working on a car repair.

Miner repairs toys for parties

By Peter Davenport

Of all efforts being made to ensure the best possible Christmas for the children of striking miners, few can equal the dedication of Mr Tom Hall's contribution.

For six hours a day, four days a week for months past he has been working with a soldering iron, miniature tools and paint pots repairing, repainting and cleaning hundreds of second-hand toys collected by a women's action group in the pit village of Bentley, near Doncaster, in the Yorkshire coalfield.

The living room of his home in Sprotborough Road, Doncaster, has been transformed into a "Santa's grotto" as the toys and games pile up.

They have been wrapped for distribution at a Christmas party tomorrow for up to 400 children at a park pavilion used as a meal kitchen for striking miners and their families in Bentley. More of Mr Hall's handiwork will go to other parties in the area.

Mr Hall, aged 50, a miner at Bentley colliery for 22 years, has been on strike throughout the dispute. Recently he had to have the little finger of his right hand amputated as a result of an accident at work and it made the delicate job of repairing the damaged toys much harder.

He helps out at the food kitchen and was there one day when two damaged games were handed in for miners' children.

"Someone mentioned that I used to be good at repairing toys and games for my own children and I volunteered to do them. It sort of snowballed from there and there were so many in the end that I couldn't move in my living room.

"My satisfaction will come when I watch the children's faces as they open their presents and see the toys. That will make it all worthwhile,"

Mr Hall said.

Spending in 4 health regions to be reduced

By Nicholas Timmins Social Services Correspondent

Health authorities in England are to receive an extra £530 million next year that will provide growth in real terms for 10 of the 14 regions, but reductions in spending of up to 0.3 per cent in real terms for the four Thames regions.

Overall the national budget will rise by 5.5 per cent in cash terms, ranging from 6.8 per cent in the Trent region to 4.2 per cent in two of the four Thames regions.

Health authorities have already been warned, however, that they will have to fund any pay increases above the Government's 3 per cent limit from the allocations announced yesterday.

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, said that the increases would vary "because we are continuing the policy of redistributing resources between different parts of the country.

"As a result I have been able to give bigger revenue increases to regions which are relatively deprived or which have rapidly growing population."

In addition, he said, cost improvement programmes were now showing "substantial" benefits and the Government was expecting the new general managers to "extend and develop them rigorously next year. As a result authorities should be able to develop services faster than the cash growth figures imply."

Extra money for capital spending should come from sales of surplus land and residential accommodation which health authorities have been asked to identify.

Health ministers also announced yesterday that authorities are being asked to set a target of treating at least 40 new kidney patients per million population by 1987. In 1983, 1,846 new patients were treated – a rate of 33 per million population.

Mr John Patten, Parliamentary Secretary for Health, said that the preferred method of treatment was transplantation, and after the launch of a kidney donor campaign in February the number of transplants had risen by 40 per cent in six months.

HEALTH SPENDING IN ENGLAND 1985/86

	Revenue increased (%)	Capital share (£m)
Northern	5.8	34.5
Yorkshire	5.9	47.8
Trent	6.8	51.2
East Anglia	6.3	20.4
NW Thames	4.2	34.1
NE Thames	4.2	39.8
SE Thames	4.4	40.5
SW Thames	4.4	31.1
Wessex	6.7	46.7
Oxford	6.3	23.1
S Western	6.3	44.5
W Midlands	6.4	73.7
Mersey	4.9	26.5
N Western	5.5	61.7
Average:	5.5	Total: 575.6

GLC snubs Government move to veto lorry ban

By Hugh Clayton

The Greater London Council yesterday brushed aside a government threat to veto its plan to ban lorries from most roads in the capital at night and weekends.

The Labour-led council's transport committee voted by 12 to six to go ahead with the ban next June, even if the Government held a public inquiry into the scheme.

In a letter to Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, the committee said it would not accept as lawful any government attempt to block the ban during the inquiry. The legal argument centres around the council's statutory obligation to ensure the speedy and safe movement of traffic.

Mr Ridley told the council last week it had not given satisfactory answers to the people who sent 3,600 letters opposing the ban and had not published enough about its costs and benefits.

The council retorted yesterday that it could produce a pile of published documents more than four feet high for Mr Ridley to study. It refused to hold a public inquiry itself, but accepted that it could not prevent the Government from holding one.

Women refused cheaper loans

The Northern Bank, the Midland Bank subsidiary in Ulster, has been discriminating unlawfully between male and female employees when granting cheap mortgages and low interest loans.

The Equal Opportunities Commission for Northern Ireland has sustained complaints that favourable loans at below market rates were refused to married women employees, but normally granted to married men.

Tebbit visits staff party

Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry paid an unexpected visit to his department in London yesterday and exchanged gifts with his staff at a Christmas party.

Mr Tebbit, aged 53, who was badly injured in the Brighton bomb explosion, was said by a department spokesman, to be "in cracking form".

Unions merge

The 7,500-strong Association of Patternmakers and Allied Craftsmen officially merged with AUEW/Tass, the engineering union's white collar sector, yesterday. The association will keep its identity and will be known as the Craft (Patternmakers) section of Tass.

Legion disease

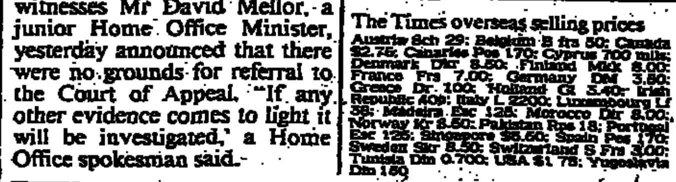
Two cases of Legionnaire's Disease were yesterday confirmed in Lanarkshire. A Cambuslang man in his 50s is in the intensive care unit at Hairmyres Hospital, East Kilbride. A 45-year-old Carluke man is in a "comfortable" condition in Law Hospital.

£480,000 haul

Two armed raiders escaped with £480,000 in cash yesterday when they attacked a security van laden with Christmas pay packets, in Oldham, Greater Manchester.

Correction

The baked beans factory at North Walsham, Norfolk, mentioned yesterday, is that of HP, not Heinz as stated.



The Times overseas selling prices
Austria Sch 29; Belgium B frs 50; Canada $2.75; Canaries Pes 170; Cyprus 700 mils; Denmark Dkr 8.50; Finland Mkk 8.00; France Frs 7.00; Germany DM 3.50; Greece Dr 100; Holland Gl 3.40; Irish Republic 40p; Italy L 2200; Luxembourg Lf 38; Madeira Esc 125; Morocco Dir 8.00; Norway Kr 8.50; Pakistan Rps 18; Portugal Esc 125; Singapore $5.60; Spain Pes 170; Sweden Skr 8.50; Switzerland S Frs 3.00; Tunisia Din 0.700; USA $1.75; Yugoslavia Din 150

New guidelines for Special Branch

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

The Home Office yesterday published new guidelines on the work of the Special Branches, which have been issued to police forces throughout England and Wales.

Until now Special Branch activities, which include the gathering of political intelligence and helping to combat terrorism, espionage and subversion, have been subject to controversially secret guidance prepared by police chiefs in 1970.

The publication of the guidelines, which have taken a year to prepare, coincides with the investigation of the Special Branch by the Commons home affairs select committee.

Apart from detailing the Special Branches' functions, the new guidelines cover records kept on individual people and say it is important that only information relevant to the branches' specific work is recorded.

"Data on individuals or organizations should not under any circumstances be collected or held solely on the basis that such a person or organization supports unpopular causes or on the basis of race or creed."

Information on individuals should, where possible, be authenticated and "not give a false or misleading impression". The guidelines add: "Access to information held by Special Branch should be strictly limited to those who have a particular need to know. Under no circumstances should information be passed to commercial firms or to employers' organizations."

But last night Mr David Winnick, Labour MP for Walsall, North, and a leading member of the select committee investigating the Special Branch, criticized the guidelines for giving too much discretion to the police.

"I and my Labour colleagues are pleased these guidelines have been published, but they provide room for a whole number of questions which are of important public interest."

He said the Special Branch was given too much discretion about what constituted a threat to public order, and he was not certain why it should be involved in the area of naturalization and immigration.

Mr Leon Brittain, the Home Secretary, will be questioned on the guidelines when he appears before the select committee in the new year. Meanwhile, Labour MPs on the committee are likely to press for the inquiry to be extended.

Policy on black homes attacked

The Bishop of Liverpool, the Right Rev David Sheppard, yesterday criticized the city council for what he called its "all talk, no action" policy on racism, after the release of a report on housing and black people.

The four-year study by the Commission for Racial Equality, showed that black people in the inner city Liverpool live in poorer housing than whites and that out of 754 city council housing officers only six are black.

The bishop said: "I was disturbed to find that the city counil had not introduced detailed monitoring of housing allocations."

Liverpool City Council's chief executive, Mr Alfred Stocks, said that many of the survey's recommendations would be accepted.

● The commission's first such study, in Hackney, east London, where the council had already adopted policies to reduce racial discrimination, came to similar conclusions, with white families more than eight times more likely to be offered new housing and black families three times more likely to be offered a flat or maisonette rather than a house (Pat Healy writes).

Clergy unites to aid families

By Paul Vallely

Even before the Bishop of Durham gave his controversial enthronement sermon on the miners' strike, the Anglican clergy in his diocese had taken a more active role in the dispute than their brethren in other parts of the country.

As the second most important festival in the church's calendar approaches, that involvement has accelerated considerably.

Clerical attitudes to the dispute are far from homogeneous. The vicar of Eppleton, the Rev John Stephenson, with his "Coal not dole," stickers and CND badges on his ankle-length cassock, has declared his church a nuclear-free zone and rails against the "lack of compassion of this woman who came into office with the prayer of St Francis on her lips."

His near neighbour, the Rev Brian Pateman, vicar of Murton, on the other hand, condemns the strike as "unnecessary" and has told his striking parishioners that they should get back to work immediately. In the vicarages of Durham there are all shades of opinion between.

What most of the area's ministers share, however, is a commitment to practical aid to strikers and their families who are in hardship. In private, local officials of the National Coal Board regret the commitment on the grounds that it can only prolong a strike which many of the clerics now consider the National Union of Mineworkers has lost.

"That sort of thing cannot be a consideration for us," the Rev Anthony Hodgson, vicar of Easington colliery. "Whatever are our views on the rights and wrongs of the dispute our Christian duty is to alleviate suffering and hardship."

He and his fellows have worked hard to put that preaching into practice. More than £20,000 of the £54,000 raised for the Durham strikers' Toys and Turkeys Appeal has been donated from a fund established by the Bishop of Durham and supported by the Salvation Army and the Roman Catholic, Methodist and Free churches.

Many of the ministers have appealed for donations from contacts all over the country and channelled thousands of pounds directly into the hands of strikers with particular difficulties. "Of course, as far as the social security authorities are concerned, that is illegal, so we do not keep records of such gifts so there can be no repercussions," one vicar told me.

Even in Holy Trinity at Murton, where the vicar maintains his anti-strike message, collections have been allowed for strikers' families.

Many miners' support groups in the area are based officially or unofficially, in local churches with vicars' wives often taking a prominent role in the daily soup kitchens

Showpiece pit cuts coal again

National Coal Board officials held a press conference yesterday to announce production of coal for the first time in 10 months at their showpiece pit.

Wistow mine, part of the £1 billion Selby complex, began producing on Wednesday, the third pit in the Yorkshire coalfield to cut coal since the dispute started. The 105 men working comprise only 15 per cent of the total workforce, and they are producing about 150 tonnes of coal a day.

Officials said that they were confident production would increase substantially in the new year, when they expect many more NUM members to return.

Statistics show that just over 3,000 NUM members, out of a total workforce of 50,000, are working in the Yorkshire coalfield, and producing about 5,000 tonnes a week.

Nationally, the NCB say that 69,000 NUM members are working – 37 per cent of the total union membership – and coal is being produced at 66 collieries. Only 26 of the country's 174 pits have 100 per cent strike support.

Coal production is rising slowly and is presently running at 600,000 tonnes a week.

● David Hamilton, aged 34, an NUM delegate, was yesterday cleared at Edinburgh Sheriff Court of attacking a working miner, after he said he acted in self-defence.

Finance and industry, page 17

Appeal ruled out for mother who killed son

A mother jailed for the murder of her 14-year-old son is to continue serving a life sentence after a Home Office decision that there are no new grounds for an appeal against her conviction.

An investigation into the murder, which occurred in 1979, was ordered after a BBC TV programme *Rough Justice* claimed that Mrs Margaret Livesey, aged 48, did not have time to commit the killing.

But after the six-month inquiry which looked again at the evidence and re-interviewed witnesses Mr David Mellor, a junior Home Office Minister, yesterday announced that there were no grounds for referral to the Court of Appeal. "If any other evidence comes to light it will be investigated," a Home Office spokesman said.

Councillor's law-defying timetable

By Our Local Government Correspondent

Mr John McDonnell, deputy leader of the Greater London Council, yesterday became the first prominent Labour councillor to set a clear timetable for breaking the law next year in defiance of Government policy.

Many other councillors have said that the law may be broken next year when the Labour movement pursues its policy of "non-compliance" with rate-capping. But Mr McDonnell made it clear in an article in *Tribune* yesterday, that he did not want his council to fix the rate by the March deadline, when it will be required to do so by law. No such deadline applies to most of the 15 other Labour-led authorities chosen for rate-capping next year.

● The Labour-led Association of Metropolitan Authorities gave warning yesterday that the latest government housing cuts might make it impossible for councils to fulfil their new legal obligation to buy back former council homes bought by their tenants, and now officially recognized as defective.

Kinnock's bad year according to poll

By Our Lobby Reporter

The year 1984 has been a grim one for Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, and 1985 looks like being even worse for his party, according to an opinion poll published last night.

Fewer than 25 per cent of those interviewed think that the Labour leader has had a "good year", while two-thirds positively believe the opposite. The poll, conducted for *Central Lobby*, Central Television's weekly political programme, places Mr Kinnock firmly in fourth place behind his party rivals, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Dr David Owen and Mr David Steel.

Even more ominous for Mr Kinnock is the belief that Labour will fall behind the Alliance and be the least successful party in 1985, while the Conservatives move ahead. And that despite the poll showing 69 per cent of those interviewed expect unemployment to rise in the next 12 months.

In contrast, Mrs Thatcher's performance continues to be highly regarded, with half the poll sample believing she has had a good 1984. Dr Owen and Mr Steel, leaders of the Alliance parties, are running neck-and-neck in terms of success, with identical numbers – 27 per cent – thinking they have had a good year.

While the 400 people polled, in Tamworth, Staffordshire, have clear views about the politicians' future, they are uncertain how they will fare in 1985. Thirty-nine per cent think they will be better off, 32 per cent believe they will be worse off, and 24 per cent think 1985 will be much the same as 1984.

QUESTION: In your view has 1984 been a good year for:

	Margaret Thatcher	David Owen	David Steel	Neil Kinnock
	%	%	%	%
Yes	49	27	27	22
No	42	41	44	65
Don't know	9	32	29	13

QUESTION: Which political party do you think will be most successful in 1985?

Conservative	Alliance	Labour
%	%	%
56	23	21

Poll: Network Intelligence.

Firecracker may re-bid on RAF deal

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

The only British-designed aircraft among four which are competing to become the next basic trainer for the Royal Air Force is likely to submit a revised bid, even though it appeared to have been eliminated by the Ministry of Defence.

On Tuesday, Mr Adam Butler, Minister of State for Defence Procurement, announced that two of the contenders for the £200 million contract had been invited to submit "best and final" offers. They are British Aerospace, with the Swiss Pilatus PC9 and Shorts of Belfast, with the Brazilian Embraer Tucano.

However, it emerged yesterday that although the other two contenders had not been invited to submit new bids, if they chose to they would be considered on their merits. A spokesman for Hunting Firecracker, the only British-designed contender, said it was extremely likely they would make another bid.

It was cost rather than performance that had led to them not being invited to re-tender. It appeared that the PC9 and the Tucano offered better value for money for better performance, although the Firecracker met all the RAF's performance specifications.

The spokesman said neither the PC9 nor the Tucano bids had to bear their full research and development costs.

Hunting Firecracker would be looking carefully at whether it could reduce its price sufficiently to make it worthwhile re-tendering. If there remained a difference over price this could be offset by the Government taking a royalty on export orders.

British Aerospace said the PC9 had all along been the only aircraft which fully met the RAF's needs and did so cost-effectively. It was the RAF's preferred choice.

Of the equipment the British Aerospace PC9, 80 per cent quoted for the Tucano. The price of the PC9 was only slightly more than the original Tucano bid, but it was cheaper to run and gave lower life-cycle costs.

Ship almost delivered on time

By Edward Townsend Industrial Correspondent

The replacement for the Atlantic Conveyor, the container ship sunk during the Falklands war, began its sea trials last night and will be handed over to the owners, Cunard, after Christmas, only a few days after the amended delivery date.

At a press conference preceding the trials, however, Mr Bill Slater, chairman of Cunard Shipping Services, said that if it had not been for the public outcry and government intervention when the order was being placed, in the summer of 1982, the company would have gone to a Far East yard and would have had the ship a year earlier.

After the personal intervention of Mrs Thatcher, Cunard gave the £50 million contract to the state-owned Swan Hunter yard on Tyneside. The new ship, twice as big as its predecessor, has provided almost two years' work for 1,000 men.

Mr Slater said that Cunard was satisfied with the quality of the new ship. Swan Hunter was improving its productivity all the time as a result of new



Atlantic Conveyor about to cast off for her sea trials.

working methods and he believed that within the next two years the yard might have narrowed the gap with its Far East rivals.

A new delivery date for the Atlantic Conveyor of December 21 was fixed more than a year ago, after discussions with Cunard over complications arising from its advanced technical systems. Mr Alex Marsh, Swan Hunter's managing director, said: "We will deliver straight after Christmas and I think that holding our programme to within a few days is no mean achievement."

Radar spy system may be based in Britain

By Our Defence Correspondent

A long-range radar system, which can see over the horizon and greatly improve surveillance of the strategically important waters of Norway, could be based in Britain.

Scientists from Britain and the United States have worked for some years on the project, code-named "Cold Witness". In March, *The Times* reported the finding at Heathrow airport of a list of names and addresses of people involved in the highly confidential project, which had been accidentally left in a telephone kiosk.

The Ministry of Defence has so far refused to discuss the project, but after a question was tabled in Parliament earlier this month, Mr Adam Butler, Minister of State for Defence Procurement, is expected to give a written reply.

An effective long-range radar system would probably be operated by bouncing radar

Britain is understood to be under consideration as a site for the system which could greatly improve the surveillance of the important sea-passages between Greenland and the Faeroe islands, and areas around the Kola Peninsula where some of the USSR's most important bases are located.

Tribunal for police chief

The suspended Derbyshire Chief Constable, Mr Alf Parrish, will face charges under police disciplinary regulations before a private, independent tribunal, probably in February or March.

Mr Parrish, aged 54, was suspended on full pay in June after it was alleged that he spent £28,000 on his office suite without authorization.

The London solicitors Titmuss, Sainer and Webb, appointed by the Derbyshire police authority to present the allegations at the tribunal, said yesterday that no details of the charges, or how many there were, could be given.

The tribunal will comprise Mr Arthur Mildon, QC, and two assessors, the former Chief Constable of Surrey, Sir Peter Matthews, and the former chief executive of Lincolnshire County Council, Mr G. R. Prentice.

56 exposed to Aids after getting transfusions of contaminated blood

Forty-one people in England and Wales are having medical check-ups after receiving blood products from an Aids (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) sufferer whose blood infected a baby, it was disclosed yesterday.

Fifteen Scottish haemophiliac patients are also being examined after exposure to the virus which can cause Aids. They received blood transfusions from a different source.

There has been a renewed plea from Dr Donald Acheson, chief medical officer at the Department of Health, the Scottish Blood Transfusion Service and Dr Richard Tedder, a leading Aids researcher at the Middlesex Hospital, London, for those people who run the highest risk of harbouring the virus not to give blood.

Such people include homosexuals, drug abusers and the sexual partners of either. Dr Tedder said that Aids should not be regarded as a "gay" disease, because it could now affect the whole community.

Dr Acheson said last night: "I should like to stress that anyone who is advised to have a blood transfusion or has been given a blood transfusion should not worry, because the risk of getting contaminated blood is extremely small."

Even if a person had an antibody screening test which proved positive it did not mean that he or she would develop Aids, he said.

Dr Tedder is urgently working on a screening method, which should be widely available within six months, whereby blood transfusion centres will be able to detect signs of the virus in blood donations. If all 2.5 million donations made each year were screened it would greatly reduce the risk of the virus being passed on.

A baby in Birmingham was born prematurely with the Aids antibodies in its system. Its mother had received an infected blood transfusion during pregnancy.

A man, aged 78, who is terminally ill with cancer, and another man in his early forties, both from Portsmouth, also ve the Aids antibodies after receiving blood from the same batch.

The Department of Health and Social Security said that all those exposed to Aids run some risk of getting the disease. So far it is not known whether they have the antibodies because they have been fighting the virus which can lead to Aids, or because they have picked up the donor's own antibodies.

The donor, a man who live in Portsmouth, gave blood at a hospital in October and was later diagnosed as having Aids. Health officials traced all recipients of his blood and, using Dr Tedder's new screning method, identified the antibodies in the patient who had had the transfusions.

They have also traced 38 haemophiliacs in Wessex and Wales who have been injected with Factor 8, the blood-clotting agent, which contained blood from the same donor. None of them has shown any signs of having clinical Aids. Health officials in Leeds and Birmingham, where the man previously gave blood, have been notified.

The cases in Scotland, which are not connected with the others, are surprising because Scotland, unlike the rest of the United Kingdom, is almost entirely self-sufficient in the production of Factor 8



Cake winner: A Christmas cake in the guise of King Kong won first prize of £100 for Mrs Linda Dainty, in the Royal Institute of British Architects' Journal competition yesterday (Charles Knevitt, our Architecture Correspondent writes).

Among the entries, which numbered more than 50, was this (above) by Miss A. Waterston, of Little Thakeham, Storrington, West Sussex, a culinary version of her own house, being judged by Mrs José Manser, wife of Mr Michael Manser, RIBA president.

The Royal Pavilion, Brighton, by Miss Gabrielle Lane, was second, winning £50, and runners-up were the Beachy Head Lighthouse, and a riverside house at Crown Reach, London.

Miss Lucy Adden, aged seven, won the £20 children's prize with her entry, a chocolate button roof with Father Christmas disappearing down the chimney.

Other entries in the annual Christmas cake decorating competition, included the Leaning Tower of Piza, a Kent oasthouse, a detail of Sir Edwin Lutyens' Viceroy's Court at New Delhi, and the penguin pool at London Zoo. (Photograph: John Voos).

Christmas sales pick up after slow start

By Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

Christmas sales will be higher than last year, despite a slight slowdown in the rate of increase in retail spending. This is the key conclusion of the latest Confederation of British Industry and Financial Times Distributive Trades Survey, held between November 20 and December 12.

The prediction was made despite a slow sales start. Christmas selling only began to pick up on the first Saturday in December. Reports from the high street shops now indicate Christmas selling is in full swing.

The sales pattern looks like a carbon copy of 1979, when Christmas Day also fell on a Tuesday. There was a slow start then but final sales totals were good.

Mr John Salisse, chairman of the CBI's survey panel, said: "Retailers are still experiencing sales increases, although the rise has fallen off slightly since the autumn. The grocery sector is doing particularly well, especially wines. The mild weather has reduced sales of winter clothing in November."

The improving sales pattern is leading to more jobs. Both retailers and wholesalers reported rises in both full-time and part-time jobs.

Increased investment in shopping facilities was expected in most sectors, particularly among large chain stores the survey said. The notable exceptions are the small independent shops which expect investment to decline.

However, the survey shows imported goods are taking a bigger share of the market than a year ago. The exception is car sales, which have increased for the first time for several months. There are, nevertheless, some indications from traders that British goods are becoming more competitive, an example being clothing, Mr Salisse said.

Hall ban on Powell broadcast

By Pat Healy
Race Relations Correspondent

Fear of demonstrations by anti-racist groups at the presence of Mr Enoch Powell on the panel of Radio Four's *Any Questions?* programme tonight has led to Toynbee Hall withdrawing its invitation as the venue for the broadcast.

Mr John Profumo, chairman of the Toynbee Hall Centenary, telephoned the producer Ms Carole Stone, to say the programme could not be held there because of worries about the possibility of race riots.

Toynbee Hall is a welfare settlement in the east end of London, which has a high Asian population. Mr Profumo asked for the *Any Questions?* programme to be broadcast from Toynbee Hall this year

However, in his letter confirming the decision, Mr Profumo referred only to the state of "internal decorations" at Toynbee Hall not being completed in time.

Tonight's programme will be broadcast from Broadcasting House, London, W, and Mr Powell will be joined on the panel by Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party, Lord Soper and David Frost.

Bill tightens rules on lawyers

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Tough new measures to deal with incompetent solicitors, including disbarment from legal aid work or being made to repay fees, were published by the Lord Chancellor yesterday as part of a package of measures designed to give the legal consumer a better deal.

The proposals are contained in the Administration of Justice Bill, which includes measures to widen competition for conveyancing by ending the solicitors' monopoly.

The Bill, which will have its second reading in January, strengthens the Law Society's powers to deal with complaints of shoddy work.

As well as ordering a solicitor to remit all or part of his costs, the society's council will be able to call in solicitors' files for examination. It will have wider disciplinary powers and be able to appoint extra lay members to its professional purposes committee.

Another provision of the Bill tightens the procedures under which solicitors and barristers can be disbarred from legal aid work or ordered to cancel their fees.

Under the present rules, legal aid complaints tribunals are composed of past and present members of the Legal Aid Committee, the top administrative body of the legal aid scheme. The committee refers complaints to the tribunals

An official at the Lord Chancellor's office said yesterday that the main reasons for change were doubts about the present procedure and its infrequent use. Most legal aid complaints are presently dealt with as professional complaints. The legal aid complaints tribunals have only sat on two cases in the past 12 years.

Cripple sent to jail for smuggling

A disabled man who attempted to smuggle 23 kilos of cannabis, with a street value of more than £60,000, into Britain concealed in the cushion of his wheelchair was jailed for six years at the High Court in Airdrie, Strathclyde, yesterday.

Sat Sethi, aged 49, of Maple Bridge, Stockport, near Manchester, is paralysed in his arms and legs. His helper, Ravi Puri, aged 49, of Slough, Middlesex, was jailed for 30 months.

Eight jailed for £3m. Krugerrands fraud

A Mafia-financed VAT fraud, described by a Central Criminal Court judge as "a grandiose and vicious scheme", led to jail sentences for seven men and a woman yesterday. Customs investigators discovered that the Mafia had put up £1 million "to start the ball rolling", but the masterminds have not been caught.

The money was used to set up several bogus companies and to buy £20 million Krugerrands which were smuggled into England from Jersey and Switzerland and sold to London bullion dealers. The swindlers kept more than £3 million which should have been paid in VAT.

David Barlow, aged 46, of The Hooke, Challey, West Sussex, a former public schoolboy, was jailed for six years and made criminally bankrupt for £3 million. He was described as the London "ringleader". Frederick Thomsett, aged 49, of Harrowdene Road, Wembley, David Ryan, aged 24 of Beaconsfield Close, Chiswick, and Thomas Daniels, aged 74, of Portland Place, Marylebone, were jailed for two years each. Daniels had a £2 7 million criminal bankruptcy order made against him

Two Frenchman Joel Lefevre aged 35, and Francios Moneglia, aged 32, of Beresford Road, Islington, was jailed for six months. They acted as couriers. Alfred Haines, aged 61, of Queens Road, Peckham, was jailed for three months

US opens way for air fare cuts

The United States' Justice Department yesterday told British Airways it would not challenge a proposed reduction of 35 per cent in its New York-London fares this winter, clearing the way for implementation of a controversial fare change.

The BA proposal would offer an Apex fare, or a late purchase fare, of 378 dollars (about £324) round trip weekdays and 428 dollars (about £366) round trip on weekends. BA's current winter Apex fare is 579 dollars (£496) round trip weekdays and 619 dollars (£530) on weekends.

The fares, proposed by all carriers on the route, had been blocked by the Government in October because it wanted assurances that the US Government would not seek to prosecute British carriers if the fares were challenged as "predatory" under US anti-trust laws.

The British budget airline Virgin Atlantic, had objected that the lower fares were designed to drive it out of business.

Grants cut means fewer concerts

By David Hewson
Arts Correspondent

London stands to lose up to 40 concerts next year because of a £280,000 cut in Arts Council funds to the capital's four main state-subsidized orchestras.

The council had originally planned to stop the grant of one of the four, the London Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic, the Philharmonic, and the London Philharmonic.

But Mr Luke Rittner, the council's secretary general, said yesterday that the £280,000 to be saved by withdrawing the backing of one orchestra would now be taken from all four, in proportion to their current level of grant.

Mr Rittner said that the council would not publish the report commissioned by a special adviser, Mr Neil Duncan, on the four London orchestras

From 1986, all four London orchestras will have to gain advance approval of their concert plans before receiving Arts Council funds.

Mr Ian Maclay, managing director of the RPO, said that the cut would cost the company £59,000. "Much more worrying is what happens in the future", Mr Maclays said. "We already have a programme for 1986-87 and now we understand that if it doesn't meet approval there could be no grant for it." A spokesman said that each "lost" night at the Royal Festival Hall cost the Greater London Council nearly £4,000.

Safety move on skips

The Government yesterday announced moves to cut down the risk of vehicles running into building skips left in the road. Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State for Transport, said that from 1986, skips left on the highway must have flourescent and reflective safety markings, identical in design to yellow and red vertical stripes painted on the back of lorries.

Skips must be lit at night, but lamps were often extinguished or stolen, she said.

Christmas Eve wedding

Duncan Goodhew, the Olympic gold medal swimmer, and his fiancée, Miss Anne Patterson (above) are to be married on Christmas Eve. Mr Goodhew, aged 27, met Anne, aged 25, of North Carolina, when a friend introduced them at East Croydon railway station.

For Mr Goodhew it was love at first sight: "I could not believe my luck." But Anne, was not so sure.

Mr Goodhew was wearing red shorts and socks and turquoise sneakers: "She didn't know what to make of me," he said yesterday.

The wedding will be at Chipstead, Surrey. (Photograph: Harry Kerr.)

Man committed on rape charges

A labourer charged with 13 offences including three of raping women at Edlesbrough and Linslade, Bedfordshire and Brampton, South Yorkshire, was committed for trial yesterday by magistrates at Dunstable, Bedfordshire.

The man, aged 32, is also accused of possessing a shotgun, burglary, entring a house with intent to steal, entering a house with intent to rape, indecently assaulting females, indecently assaulting a man and inflicting grievous bodily harm.

Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

Bill aims to prevent tooth decay

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The Government yesterday introduced its Bill to empower water authorities in England, Wales and Scotland to add fluoride to water supplies to prevent tooth decay. The move follows a ruling last year by the Scottish courts that Strathclyde, Regional Council had no power to add fluoride to the water supply.

While that ruling does not apply outside Scotland, the Bill is intended to provide Scottish water authorities with the power to add fluoride, and to ensure there is no doubt about the powers of the English and Welsh authorities and boards. Similar legislation is to be introduced for Northern Ireland.

The Government's move coincides with the report of a study chaired by Professor George Knox, Professor of Social Medicine at Birmingham University, which has reviewed for the Department of Health the evidence on whether adding fluoride carries any additional risk of cancer.

The report, which has not yet been published, is believed to have found that adding the chemical carries no additonal risk.

The finding is based on comparisons of cancer rates in areas where water is fluorinated naturally with areas that are fluoride-free and have had the chemical added.

Th Medical Research Council is assessing Japanese studies suggesting fluoride can damage the genetic material of cells.

But British scientists have maintained that fluoride levels used in the Japanese studies are far higher than would result from fluoridating water.

The Bill is still likely, however, to face fierce opposition from the anti-fluoridation lobby.

PARLIAMENT DECEMBER 20 1984 | Aviation Bill grounded ● Havers defended

Hold-up to Bill implementing Heathrow pledge

CIVIL AVIATION

The Government is proposing to postpone the committee stage of the Civil Aviation Bill until after a decision has been taken on whether to expand Stansted.

The Bill, which gives the Secretary of State for Transport power to limit aircraft movements at British Airports Authority aerodromes, was given a second reading on November 21 but rebel Conservatives have blocked its further progress.

Five years ago the Government promised it would impose a limit of 275,000 aircraft movements per year at Heathrow.

Announcing the postponement to the Commons, Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, said the Government was attempting to honour that pledge by bringing in the Bill.

Those who frustrated it in committee (he said) are those who must be blamed if it proves impossible to get the legislative powers to implement the limit.

In his statement Mr Ridley recalled that the Bill had a second reading majority of 78. However on two separate occasions, Tuesday December 11 and Tuesday December 18, the Standing Committee to which the Bill was committed had voted against the sittings motion. (This sets the times at which the committee will meet and failure to pass the motion effectively blocks consideration of the Bill.)

The Bill (he said) is required whatever decisions are taken in relation to the inspector's report on Stansted/Heathrow Terminal.

The Government will need the powers in the Bill if at any time it is decided to impose a limit on air traffic movements at any British Airports Authority airport for environmental reasons. Equally it will need the powers even if the environmental limit at Heathrow were not imposed, because both Heathrow and Gatwick are rapidly approaching the point when demand for runway space will exceed the physical capacity for extended periods of the day.

Proceeding with the Bill would not therefore have prejudiced the decision the Minister for Housing and Construction and I will have to take on the inspector's report. Nevertheless the Government suggests that further consideration of the Bill be postponed until that decision has been taken.

I note the chairman has reconvened the committee for February 12. I must make it clear to the House that, it is very likely that no decision on Stansted – Terminal Five will be possible by then. We will therefore in due course seek to arrange with the chairman when the committee shall meet again.

Mr Peter Snape, Opposition spokesman on transport: With a little commonsense on Mr Ridley's part this problem would not have occurred. It is only due to his arrogance that this unique public humiliation is taking place.

How can Mr Ridley say that demand for runaway space will exceed the physical capacity when the chairman of the Heathrow scheduling committee and the BAA have both indicated that the physical capacity of Heathrow is greatly in excess of the present air traffic movement limit?

In any case, if there is such a problem as Mr Ridley outlined why is he refusing international flights at Manchester? Does Mr Ridley anticipate a painful interview when the Prime Minister returns.

Mr Ridley: I have never before heard it suggested to be arrogant to believe that the will of the majority of House should not be frustrated.

It is not only a question of annual capacity of Heathrow and Gatwick. It is a question of capacity at certain times of the day and certain times of the year which must become congested without these powers.

Sir Humphrey Atkins (Spelthorne, C): Hundreds and thousands, if not millions, of Londoners and others affected by Heathrow are looking to Mr Ridley to honour the Conservative Government's promise.

Mr Ridley: The Government has attempted to honour that promise by bringing a Bill into the House and taking it into committee. Those who frustrated it in committee are those who must be blamed if it proves impossible to get the legislative powers to implement the 275,000 ATM Limit.

Mr Alan Haselhurst (Saffron Walden, C) Mr Ridley is in danger of risking a certain amount of exasperation amongst his own colleagues if he persists in believing there is no connection between the contents of the Bill and the decision on airports policy.

Mr John Wilkinson (Ruislip-Northwood, C): We, on the standing committee, are certainly keen that his quasi-judicial position should in no way be prejudiced. Would it not have been better if he had come to the House and said unequivocally he was going to withdraw the Bill in its entirety until such time as he had reached a decision on airports policy?

Any fudging of the air traffic movements limit is impossible since the inspector said that the 275,000 limit was unjustifiable on environmental grounds and air traffic control considerations.

Will he listen to the advice of Brits Airways who say this limit is totally unjustifiable?

Mr Ridley: Surely the boot is on the other foot. Would he not be prepared to listen to the other side of the case he has just put and listen to the reasons why to have proceeded with this Bill would not have had the effects he fears and would certainly not have prejudiced the decision on Stansted?

Instead of being prepared to listen to these arguments, he preferred to vote for the debate to be terminated. I wonder whether that means he does not have quite the faith in his own arguments that he suggests.

Mr Anthony Lloyd (Stretford, Lab): Will he accept the need for a proper review of airports policy? Will he guarantee the democratic process will be maintained and that we will have a vote on a motion on Stansted and he will agree to bind himself by the decision of this House?

Mr Ridley: Mr Biffen, Leader of the House, has made it clear there will be a debate on the Stansted/Terminal Five issue. I am sure I would be right to leave the form and nature of the debate to him.

Mr Toby Jessel (Twickenham, C): It would be wrong to allow the opinions of the planning inspector, who is no more than an advisor, and who differed from the report of the previous inspector anyhow, to override the clear commitment of the Government to millions of people living around Heathrow.

Mr Ridley: I agree it is difficult when two distinguished inspectors come to two different views. The Government has tried to secure the legislation necessary to impose such a limit and, as he knows only too well, we could not have tried harder.

If we do not succeed he will know precisely who to blame, not only three Conservative MPs but all the Labour MPs.



Clwyd: Glad minister has been let off the hook

Mrs Ann Clwyd (Cynon Valley, Lab): As a member of the standing committee, I am glad to see the minister relieved of his considerable embarrassment and left off the hook. Perhaps he would look at the substantial claims of the regions.

Some of us look at this Bill and the Stansted report as a further attempt to hijack resource for the south-east of England when there are vast regions in Britain suffering from substantial unemployment.

If he were to de-centralize air services, that would lead to substantial improvement in the regions where airports already exist and which could do with the substantial investment the Government obviously intends to put into Stansted and possibly a fifth terminal at Heathrow.

Mr Ridley: Nothing would please me more than to see a greater expansion of prosperity in all of Britain's regional airports. Considerable extra amount of investment for Cardiff airport has been approved this (Thursday) afternoon. That makes it harder for me to understand why she is not in favour of discussing a Bill which would have had the effect of limiting the number of flights into Heathrow.

Without such a limit, presumably more flights would go into Heathrow and less into Cardiff.

Mr Anthony Steen (South Hams, C): Would he confirm that the basis for his predecessor's pledge to the country in 1979 was noise nuisance and damage to the environment? If that is the case, would he tell the British Airports Authority that he will not tolerate them proposing an increase in landing charges by 244 per cent on the quietest private domestic scheduled airlines while removing the charges entirely to the noisiest international jets?

Mr Ridley: I cannot tell the BAA anything unless Parliament grants me the relevant powers to do so.

British intelligence 'murdered woman'

BELGRANO

Mr Tam Dalyell (Linlithgow, Lab), leading inquisitor of the Government over the sinking of the Belgrano in the Falklands war, said in the Commons early today (Thursday) that he had been told that British intelligence had murdered an elderly woman in a search of her home for sensitive documents.

Mr Giles Shaw, Minister of State, Home Office, in replying to what he called Mr Dalyell's "important revelations", said a substantial police investigation was still continuing and regrettably had not been concluded. The case was far from closed and Mr Dalyell would receive a comprehensive reply.

Mr Dalyell said intruders broke into the Shrewsbury home of 78-year-old Miss Hilda Murrell to look for documents possibly incriminating the Prime Minister over the Falklands affair.

Miss Murrell's nephew, Commander Rob Green, who had held a key position in Naval intelligence during the Falklands, had physically sent the signal which sank the Belgrano. He considered the Falklands to be an unnecessary war, was appalled by the sinking of the Belgrano, although considering it an unfortunate necessity and had taken early retirement after 20 years in the Navy.

This had put him under suspicion of the Prime Minister and her colleagues. The search had been for any Belgrano related documents of Commander Green in his aunt's home.

There are persons in Westminster and/or Whitehall (he said) who know a great deal more about the violent death of Miss Murrell than they have so far been prepared to divulge.

He demanded to know on whose Ministerial authority, if any, the search of Miss Murrell's home took place: whether it was the Intelligence Services "doing their own thing" or if they had done it on political orders.

Some of us (he said) have increasing misgivings about the role of the Intelligence Services in this country.

The intruders had no intention of doing away with Miss Murrell, but of searching her house while she was out. On March 21 she returned unexpectedly and fought them. They injured her and panicked. Things went disastrously wrong.

She was killed (he said), or left to die from hypothermia, and the cover-up had to begin, because the searchers were members of British Intelligence, I am informed.

He discounted the already reported theory that Miss Murrell's death was connected with the paper she had written on the problems of nuclear waste which she hoped would be read at the Sizewell B inquiry.

After the murder, he went on, the police had wrongly said the house had been ransacked. It had been a sophisticated break-in and the house searched carefully. They said she had been sexually assaulted. She had not.

What is the purpose of this kind of inaccuracy (he said) other than to sweep uncomfortable suspicions under the carpet? Were the police told at high authority to act in an uncharacteristically incompetent and slapdash way? There were errors on the time of discovery of the body. the Special Branch were involved at an early stage.

The body had stab wounds and a blow under one eye. A cremation was carried out in a heck of an indecent hurry. Proper forensic procedures seemed to have been blocked. The family were told they could not have an independent autopsy.

Miss Murrell had telephoned friends in a frightened state before her death. All the inconsistencies pointed away from a random murder, and away from the current official explanation.

In an odd way (he said) it is like the Belgrano affair – small inconsistencies seem to be part of larger lies.

Mr Giles Shaw, replying, said police had found no evidence of forcible entry at Miss Murrell's home but access could have been thorough an insecure door. There was evidence of a struggle in an upstairs room with the offender, who had apparently previously made a systematic search of the premises, drawn the front downstairs curtains and left an electric light on.

Miss Murrell was then taken in her own car to the scene of her death. She was beaten and stabbed and left to die of hypothermia and the car left on the side of the road near a coppice.

The West Mercia police had devoted considerable resources to the investigation. There was no evidence whatever to link Miss Murrell's death to her connection with anti-nuclear organizations.

Legal aid assessment

Good progress has been made in bringing into effect a number of the recommendations of the Rayner scrutiny of assessment of eligibility for legal aid Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, said during question time in the House of Lords.

Discussions are still continuing on the main issues raised (he said) and I expect the Government's final decision to be announced early in the new year.

Lord Hatch of Lusby (Lab): Last June it was discovered that under certain secret regulations, the "L" Code, officials of the Department of Health and Social Security were being ordered to take action which was illegal

Lord Hailsham: The code is being revised.

Marriage must not be used as entry device

IMMIGRATION

Britain simply could not allow marriage to be used as a device for people to come here and to go on to the labour market at a time of high unemployment, Mr David Waddington, Minister of State, Home Office, said during Commons questions.

He was answering Mr Jonathan Sayeed (Bristol East, C) who had said it would not be a good idea to import more people to do the same few jobs during high unemployment.

Ms Clare Short (Birmingham, Ladywood, Lab) said the rule requiring a man to prove it was not his primary purpose to come to the UK when seeking entry for marriage, discriminated unjustly against British women because they were of Asian origin. Hundreds were not able to marry the man of their choice. Even worse, families with children were involved. No civilized country could defend the primary purpose rule.

Mr Waddington said a case Ms Short was obviously referring to proved that it was easy and fair to apply this test. In that case, the decision of the entry clearance officer in the sub-continent was upheld both by the adjudicator and the immigration appeals tribunal.

He said later that the primary purpose rule was not an attack on marriage or on arranged marriages. Delays were fewer than under Labour.

The failure rate of applications by husbands and fiances to come to Britain was down dramatically. In 1982 the overall refusal rate was 63 per cent but dropped in 1983 to 47 per cent. Refusals on grounds of primary purpose were at 25 per cent and, on this ground and another ground, 33 per cent.

Mr Christopher Murphy (Welwyn Hatfield, C) said it would be wrong for any MP to abuse his or her position in immigration cases.

Mr Waddington was sure MPs did not wittingly abuse their privileges. But sometimes the facility MPs had to approach a minister to ask for a man's temporary admission while they made representations could be abused. Recently, someone affected by the primary purpose rule had remained in the country for months and was still here because an MP had made representations.

Mr Gerald Kaufman, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs: Mr Waddington has displayed naked racialism which underlies the way the rule is administered. (Loud Conservative protests.) He is distorting the figures.

Since 1980-83 refusals on the ground of primary purpose had risen 25 fold, and Mr Waddington took pleasure in this. It was deliberate and inhuman distortion of the rule. (Renewed Tory protests.) British women wanting the same right as everyone else to live here with the husband of their choice were being persecuted.

This Government (he said) should be downright ashamed of itself.

Mr Waddington said the House had heard all that before. Refusal rates under this government compared favourably with those under Labour. As usual, Mr Kaufman was prepared to distort the figures: he was talking about the number of refusals on the ground of primary purpose as compared with the total of refusals on other grounds.

The only realistic analysis was the number of primary purpose refusals as a percentage of all applications. On that basis it had been easier for husbands and fiances to establish a right to get into the country in 1983-84 than in 1982 before the 1983 rules were brought in.

● In Commons written replies, Mr Waddinton said that in the first three quarters of 1984 in the Indian subcontinent, 190 husbands of British citizens were refused entry clearance for leave to enter the United Kingdom.

One hundred and seventy husbands were refused solely because the primary purpose of the marriage was to obtain admission to the United Kingdom, and a few were refused partly because of this reason. Some of those applications might subsequently be granted on appeal.

About two-thirds of husbands who applied in the Indian subcontinent were granted entry clearance in 1982 and a similar proportion in the 12 months up to September 1984.

Attorney had to take action

NUM FUNDS

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Solicitor General, clashed angrily with Mr Brian Sedgemore (Hackney South and Shoreditch, Lab) in the Commons early today (Thursday) over allegations by Mr Sedgemore that the Attorney General (Sir Michael Havers) had abused his powers in respect of the sequestration of National Union of Mineworkers' assets and should therefore resign.

Mr Sedgmore said the Attorney General had powers to advise the Government but not powers to advise the Conservative Party for political advantage. In this context, he had abused the law, abused Parliamentary sovereignty and abused the constitution.

This was not a one-off: this was part of a pattern of this Attorney General and that made it all the more important for the House to stand up and say "Enough". The Attorney General was abusing the powers of the courts of the land. The right thing for him to do would be to resign and outside the House he should be reported to his Inns of Court. He had debased and demeaned the laws of this country, Parliament and the constitution

Sir Patrick Mayhew said Mr Sedgemore's allegations inspired in him contempt. Unprecedented action had been needed to deal with an unprecedented situation in the NUM's attempt to defeat the court's fine and move its assets. He rejected utterly attacks on the Attorney General and regarded them with profound scorn.

Kinnock's view: Levene appointment stinks

DEFENCE

The appointment of Mr Peter Levene, chairman and managing director of United Scientific Holdings as Chief of Defence Procurement at £95,000 a year was stoutly defended by Mr John Biffen, Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Commons. Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, had told him during Prime Minister's question time, that the appointment and everything connected with it stank.

Mr Biffen said that the salary was related to what would be obtained in the private sector, but evoked more protest by suggesting that a success at £95,000 a year was cheaper than a failure at half the price.

He added later that this should not be taken as casting any reflection on Mr David Perry, the present Chief of Defence Procurement who is to become Chief of Defence Equipment Collaboration.

Mr Kinnock opened the exchanges by asking Mr Biffen: Apart from his personal friendship with the Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Michael Heseltine) what can justify the appointment of Mr Peter Levene as Chief of Defence Procurement?

Does Mr Biffen think that by accepting £95,000 a year Mr Levene is pricing himself into the job?

Mr Biffen: No. Mr Heseltine is in a good position to make a judgement of who can fulfil this vitally important task. By going to the world outside Whitehall, he is repeating what was done with Lord Rayner. His actions will stand the test.

Mr Kinnock: Why £95,000? Why this individual? We and many others in the House and elsewhere think the whole appointment and everything connected with it stinks. (Conservative protests)

Mr Biffen: One of the privileges of this place is that one can make easy and cheap jibes.

I say to Mr Kinnock that the task of managing an £8,000 million budget is formidable indeed and that the price of £95,000 a year is not unrelated to what would be obtained in the private sector.

Mr Kinnock: Many things have been said about Mr Lenene, but at £95,000 a year for five years, he is certainly not coming cheap.

Will Mr Biffen now answer the question? What justification can there be for an appointment that doubles the salary of the current appointee?

What earthly justification is there in savings to the national exchequer in effective defence procurement. The whole recent history of the Government relationship with this man gives grounds for suspicion about the nature.... (Loud Conservative interruptions)

Mr Biffen: A judgement was made by the Secretary of State for Defence about Mr Levene's ability. A man successfully executing a job at £90,000 a year is a damned sight cheaper than a failure at half that price. (Protests and cries of "Oh" and "Prime Minister")

Mr Andrew Stewart (Sherwood, C): In view of the historic decision by Nottinghamshire NUM today in taking steps to protect its members, has Mr Biffen any Christmas message for Mr Arthur Scargill?

Mr Biffen: Since we exist in a period of charity ahead of Christmas, may I first make clear that nothing in my last exchange with the leader of the Opposition should in any sense be construed as casting any reflection on Mr David Perry.

I am saying that because I am prepared to exemplify the spirit of charity to those outside the House who cannot answer back. That is sadly lacking in the Leader of the Opposition.

My message to Mr Scargill is very simple: that there exists a Nacods agreement which provides an excellent framework for a return to the negotiating table.

Mr Alexander Carlile (Montgomery, L): Was it part of the deal that Sir Frank Cooper, former Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence, should become chairman of Mr Peter Levene's former company?

Mr Biffen: It was not part of the deal.

No shoot to kill policy exists

ULSTER

There was not, nor would the Government contenance, a shoot to kill policy for the security forces in Northern Ireland, Mr Douglas Hurd, assured MPs when moving a motion in the Commons noting Sir George Baker's review of the operation of the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1978.

The motion also accepted the continuing need for temprary emergency powers and recognized the need to maintain as fully as possible individual liberties.

Mr Kevin MacNamara (Hull North, Lab) and Mr John Hume (Foyle, SDLP), challenged Mr Hurd's statement that there was no shoot to kill policy. Mr MacNamara referred to a recent shooting in Derry and said many people in the Province believed such a policy existed. Mr Hurd said he understood the security forces had advance information about the two IRA members involved in the Derry shooting so there should have been plenty of time for alternative action to be considered.

Mr Hurd said the rule of law would be adhered to and all such cases would be investigated. It wuld be wrong for him to comment further on the Derry incident.

No simple answer on BBC advertising

BBC FINANCE

While he was not ruling out advertising as a source or partial source of finance for the BBC for all time, Mr Giles Shaw, Minister of State, Home Office, said in the Commons early today that a decision on advertising was neither straightforward nor simple. The Government did not foresee any radical departure from the licensing system at this stage.

He was replying to a debate in which a number of Conservative MPs were critical of the BBC's application for an increase in its television fee from £46 to £65 and had urged the introduction of advertising in various ways to BBC television and radio. There were also calls for a review of the three-year system and Mr Shaw said the Home Secretary would look at that.

He said that at the request of the Home Secretary the BBC had commissioned an independent consultant's report on the efficiency of the corporation. This report in January would be a crucial part of the assessment of the submission by the BBC. There was no easy solution to the problem of financing the BBC.

The debate was opened by Mr Robert Jones (West Hertfordshire) who said there were areas of almost unbelievable waste in the BBC which characterized many large public sector institutions. The proposed rise in the fee from £46 to £65 was a whopping increase for someone living on a fixed income.

Possibly the greatest degree of support was for introduction of advertising on Radios One and Two, where there was popular and light music. Advertising would be introduced in due course. He hoped there would be efforts to improve efficiency in the BBC and there would be encouragement to privatize local radio and breakfast television.

Mr Roger King (Birmingham, C) said time stood still on BBC television on a Saturday evening. The same thing happened every Saturday – quiz shows with the same panel and almost the same contestants, a female police soap opera, an old American film probably shown four or five times already followed by that other cult programme, snooker. It led him to question where all the money went.

Morning television had added to the BBC costs, just emphasized by the corporation's reported attempt to retain one of the permanent female anchor women at a suggested salary of £80,000 a year not for a five day week but for working every other week. That struck him as money badly spent.

Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk (Knowsley, North, Lab) for the Opposition, said there were implaccably opposed to the introduction of advertising on BBC radio and television. The advent of advertising would destroy public service broadcasting which was the envy of the rest of the world.

The political independence of the BBC had been under threat from the Government. The Prime Minister had been leading the way in attempts to threaten, cajole, bully and put pressure on the BBC.

Mr Giles Shaw, Minister of State, Home Office, said free television to pensioners would cost £250m on the present basis and would remove a third of the corporation's annual income. Under Labour there would not be a penny piece of advertising or any taxation. It was outrageous pseudo-policy.

Evasion was costing £60m a year within a system which had existed for 60 years and stood the test of time.

A limited injection of advertising was a tempting proposition but the line between feast and famine in marketing and advertising was not all that thick. It was by no means certain advertising revenue would continue to grow at the same rate as it had over the last 10 years.

Independent television's revenue looked as though it would fall short of the £1,000m forecast for 1984. There had been a sharp down turn in revenue in the last two and a half months.

If advertising were introduced into BBC programmes it would have to be done gradually with the licence fee revenue remaining the major part of the corporation's income for some time. Present revenue income was £770m and any replacement would have to be of a comparable size with comparable ability to grow.

BBC expenditure in the current finance year was greater than the licence fee income–about £70 million more–and for 1984-85 the BBC needed £100 more to maintain services at their present level. This could not be generated by one 15 second advertisement on BBC television each hour.

It seemed likely competition between independent television and the BBC for revenue would drive down advertising rates because there had been insufficient competition between ITV companies hitherto, making the BBC obliged to take more advertising to bring in the necessary revenue.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Christmas adjournment debates on various topics.

The following Acts received Royal Assent: Consolidated Fund (No 2); Friendly Societies; and Greater London Council (Money) (No 2).

Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

Mrs Thatcher will face a peculiarly sensitive task in her discussions in Washington tomorrow. For the first time since the foundation of Nato there is the prospect of a reasonable view of American interests conflicting with a reasonable view of European interests on a critical issue directly affecting the Nato area itself.

During his visit to London this week Mr Gorbachov has made it clear that his principal purpose has been to enlist Britain in the diplomatic effort to dissuade the Reagan Administration from developing its Strategic Defence Initiative, or "star wars" scheme, as it is better known. There must be no arms race in space, so the argument runs.

It is a conclusion with which the British Government has much sympathy, though for very different reasons from those which appeal to Moscow. But while the United States is prepared to discuss the question in negotiations with the Soviet Union – neither side has imposed conditions for talking – it would be surprising if the Reagan Administration were willing to renounce the whole idea of a defensive system against nuclear assault.

Misgivings of a Briton

If I were an American, I suspect that I would share that attitude. I might wonder about the practicality and cost of the scheme. I would hope that the Administration would be realistic about the research findings before committing very large sums of money to deployment.

But I would be reluctant to abandon the development of a capability because I would expect more to be gained for the security of the United States from a viable system of defence against nuclear attack – if that could be obtained – than from any agreement with the Soviet Union. I would even expect to gain more security from a system that would simply rule out the possiblity of an effective first strike against the United States.

As a Briton, however, I have misgivings. These are directed not to the possession of a "star wars" system by the United States, but by the Soviet Union. This has to be assumed because it it the declared intention of President Reagan to offer such a system to the Soviet leaders if they have not managed to develop one for themselves.

There are fears that the British and French deterrents might then be rendered useless, though this would depend upon what degree of protection the Soviet Union had secured.

The logic of these national deterrents is that they would be able not to defeat the Soviet Union but to inflict unacceptable damage. So long as some British and French missiles could get past an imperfect "star wars" system – which is all that would seem realistic for some years to come – that purpose would be served.

A more serious anxiety would seem to me to be that if the Soviet Union thought itself safe from nuclear attack there would not be the same restraint upon conventional warfare. That would not affect the security of the United States, but it might well affect, if not the physical safety of Western Europe, certainly its self-confidence. It was to prevent further Soviet encroachments in Europe before Moscow even had the atomic bomb that Nato was established in the first place.

Easy to throw nuclear cloak

Americans argue that their willingness to give military protection to Western Europe would hardly be diminished by making them less vulnerable to nuclear attack at home. That must be true.

They also suggest that this would, in effect, be a return to the early days of Nato when the United States would not have put its own cities in jeopardy by coming to the aid of its European allies. But in those days the West had a nuclear monopoly.

It is reasonable for Europeans now to be disturbed at the possibility that the Soviet Union might no longer be subject to the overwhelming fear of nuclear retaliation for any conventional adventure. But it would not be reasonable to expect the United States on that account to give up the possibility of nuclear protection for its own people.

This is not an issue, therefore, on which governments on both sides of the Alliance could easily agree, if only they would be logical. That is why it presents such a challenge to Alliance diplomacy.

Dairy Farming Tribunal

Farmers fight quota cuts

By John Young
Agriculture Correspondent

On a dark, damp Sunday afternoon, in a shabby building in Cannon Street, London, Mr Jim Reed is putting in some of the 100 hours a week that he works as secretary of the Dairy Produce Quota Tribunal.

Cheerful, friendly and extrovert, he is the antithesis of the caricature grey-faced civil servant. Seconded from the Ministry of Agriculture at half a day's notice last May, he has watched the tribunal grow from 10 to nearly 90 members, and has seen the deadline for the completion of its work slip from September to December, and now, perhaps, the end of January.

When the Government announced in March that all dairy farmers would have to cut production by 9 per cent this year, it had no idea that more than 20,000 of them, about half the total, would use the appeals procedure to plead for special treatment.

Mr Reed concedes that many are trying it on. But some farmers in trouble, who have borrowed from banks to expand their herds, say that their reduced income will not be enough to meet repayments.

To appeal successfully a farmer must be able to show that because of disease, accident, theft or compulsory land purchase his 1983 output was not typical; or that at the time quotas were imposed he had already begun a government-approved expansion scheme; or, in what are known as exceptional hardship cases, that he had entered into financial commitment which could be paid for only by the sale of milk.

All except the exceptional hardship cases go first to local panels, but there is a right of appeal to the tribunal. So far it has heard about 1,250 appeals against panel decisions and about 900 hardship applications, and has delivered some 1,300 verdicts.

About 85 per cent of hardship claims have so far been rejected. In the other cases roughly 35 per cent of the appellants have been allowed higher quotas, 15 per cent have had them reduced, and the rest have been left unchanged.

There have been distressing scenes, but most farmers have accepted the tribunal's verdicts. Their main complaints are of the time taken to hear appeals, and of regional bias.

The National Farmers' Union says that many of its members have complained about inconsistency among local panels, but that most of those who have appeared before the tribunal feel they received a firm but fair hearing.

The union, however, is inhibited in its comments because it is not supplied with copies of individual decisions.

Mr Reed admits that the tribunal could be accused of dispensing justice behind closed doors, and of arbitrarily depriving people of their livelihoods. But he says that the tribunal is independent and not, as many people suppose, answerable to the ministry, and that it is the farmers who are most insistent on confidentiality.

He says that once the tribunal has established the facts, the criteria are too strictly defined to permit arbitrary verdicts.

Each "court" consists of three people, who include farmers, land agents, former ministry officials, retired bank managers and lawyers, chosen for the most part for their familiarity with agriculture.

They hear between 12 and 20 cases a day, for which each tribunal member is paid £93 a day plus expenses and a small allowance for the time spent in studying the paperwork beforehand.

With some 5,000 out of 6,000 appeals still to be heard, the end of January target looks increasingly unrealistic. Neither Mr Reed nor his chairman, Lord Grantchester, who is also president of the VAT Tribunal, expects much respite over Christmas.

Ultimatum on cleaning of hospital

The private company responsible for cleaning one of Britain's main provincial hospitals has been given until January 22 to improve its standards.

OCS (Hospital Services) Ltd have been at the centre of controversy between management and unions since taking over the £725,000 contracts at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, 23 weeks ago.

Members of the Confederation of Health Service Employees and National Union of Public Employees refused to work for the company and criticized their cleaning standards at the hospital.

Cambridge Health Authority has decided that the company must substantially improve cleaning by the deadline date, or face a review of the contract. The decision came after a meeting which heard a report from staff monitoring cleaning at Addenbrooke.

Unionist leader urges SDLP to begin talks

From Richard Ford, Belfast

The leader of Northern Ireland's largest Unionist party yesterday appealed for the Social Democratic and Labour Party to begin talks in an attempt to break the political deadlock.

In his Christmas message, Mr James Molyneaux, leader of the Official Unionist Party, used the words "perceptions" and "realities", which echo those of nationalist politicians in both parts of Ireland and are also found in the New Ireland Forum report.

Mr Molyneaux says: "In the context of current controversies, we are eager to listen to the leaders of constitutional nationalism and hope they will join us in discussions of perceptions and realities."

The tone of the short statement was described by one leading SDLP politician as unprecedented and it indicates that despite the recriminations after the Anglo-Irish summit, the leadership of the Official Unionists has not retreated from its document, The Way Forward, which called for both sides in the province to respect each other's hopes and fears.

Mr Molyneaux is implicitly critical of his deputy leader and the Rev Ian Paisley for the language they used in attacking Dr Cahal Daly, Roman Catholic Bishop of Down and Connor, after his comments on nationalist alienation.

Officials at the Northern Ireland Office were dismayed at terms such as "vicar general of the SDLP" and "black pope", used to describe the bishop.

Ambulance strike

Ambulance service managers and controllers manned accident and emergency machines in Belfast yesterday when crews at the city's largest ambulance depot mounted a four-hour lightning strike over Christmas overtime pay. After talks between management and union officials crews resumed normal working.

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Police chiefs in favour of jury trials in fraud cases, but urge reforms

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Most chief constables and senior investigators are in favour of retaining trial by jury for fraud cases, but call for important reforms to streamline court procedures, according to police evidence submitted to the committee on fraud trials under Lord Roskill.

The evidence, released yesterday, was submitted to the committee by Sir Kenneth Newman, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, on behalf of other forces. It finds only five forces reluctantly arguing for a move to trial by a judge sitting with assessors or a jury of professional specialists.

The dissenting forces, which include the City of London, acknowledge the move should be made only for serious fraud cases and the evidence says that all forces "would be supportive of any improvements in 'related matters' which, it is generally felt, would obviate, the need to tamper with the jury".

Those including the Metropolitan and City home Fraud Squad supporting the current trial system, whose use for fraud cases has been questioned by senior judges, the Attorney General and the Director of Public Prosecutions – note the London fraud has a 90 per cent conviction rate and court time takes up only 10 per cent of a detective's duties.

The Roskill committee was told that the police were not "disposed to tamper with the present system of trial by jury which has stood the test of time and considered by many as a bastion of the freedom of liberty enjoyed by every individual in the land. Many believe the constitutional arguments in favour of trial by jury are very persuasive".

A jury of professional specialists might not match the standard of morality applied by a jury chosen at random.

The evidence criticized passing the DPP for sometimes not proceeding to trial because a case was considered too complex for a jury to understand. The evidence noted: "We are not convinced that on each occasion such decisions are necessarily correct."

Convictions and proceedings were more likely to succeed if the progress of cases could be improved by changes including the use of modern techniques such as graphic displays in the courtroom.

The use of such techniques are among a list of recommendations which may well meet opposition from the legal profession and even the judiciary.

The police said the right to an "old style" committal, where all the evidence is reviewed, should be romoved unless a defence can make the case for one. The police argued that although a committal is intended only to show there is a case to answer "old style" committals were used in 26 per cent of all fraud cases in London but in all such cases convictions were eventually achieved.

Pre-trial reviews should be made statutory in serious fraud cases and defence counsel should be obliged or encouraged to disclose the matters they intend to contest in the trail, outlining the thrust of their argument.

At such reviews all counsel and the judge hearing the case should attend, avoiding current incidents where reviews are handled by junior counsel or judges who do not try the case.

The police argued for the abolition of the right of a defence to challenge up to three potential jurors without counsel. Instead a defence should have the right to challenge only if the cause is given.

Once a trial has begun both councel for the prosecution and defence should be encouraged to make shorter speeches avoiding the endless days spent in speeches at some trials

At the same time judges in their summing ups should not merely reiterate all the evidence bu emphasize the main points of disagreement and intemize the evidence concerned as they do so.



Drunk rail driver 'forgot' to let passengers off train

A British Rail driver was dismissed after he drove a commuter train through a station without stopping after drinking three pints of beer during his tea break.

Geoffrey Bailey, aged 26, of Ritherdon Road, Balham, south-west London, was so drunk he forgot he was carrying passengers and drove past the Sydenham platform in South London without letting them off, Sutton Magistrates' Court was told yesterday.

Mr Peter Danbury, for the prosecution, said that a British Rail official at Sydenham, rang through to the next station down the line and stopped the London Bridge to Epsom train.

Bailey admitted being drunk while employed on a railway on September 14.

He was remanded on unconditional bail until January 17 for him to take legal advice and for a social inquiry report to be drawn up.

Climber bids for 277 peaks

Peak time: Mr Martin Moran, a mountaineering accountant from Sheffield, set out today to spend the 90 official days of winter bagging the 277 Scottish Munros (Ronald Faux writes). A munro is a Scottish peak of more than 3,000 feet. The attempt will demand more than 1,000 miles of walking and 380,000 feet of climbing and is in aid of the Third World charity Intermediate Technology. Mr Moran, aged 29, will be accompanied for much of the time by his wife.

Big rise in number of arson cases

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

The number of deliberate fires in occupied buildings rose from 8,700 to 15,500 in the five years up to 1983, an average annual increase of 12 per cent, according to Home Office statistice issued yesterday.

The most common cause of accidental fires in dwellings was the unintentional misuse of equipment or appliances, such as leaving a cooker ring turned on and unattended or knocking over a heater. Misuse accounted for more than one third of all fires in dwellings between 1978 and 1983.

Non-fatal fire casualties have increased from 6,720 to 10,040 over the decade, during which fatal casualties have fluctuated between 849 and 1,096. The 1983 total was 903.

Fires in road vehicles have increased by some 16,000 since 1977 to 40,000 in 1983, 1,000 more than in the previous year.

Fire Statistics United Kingdom 1983. (S3 Division, Home Office, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT, £3.50).

Libel case award for Labour's chief whip

Mr Michael Cocks, the Labour Chief Whip, received undisclosed libel damages in the High Court yesterday over allegations that he planned to desert his party.

Mr Desmond Browne, for Mr Cocks, told Mr Justice Drake that a *Mail on Sunday* article, published in October, claimed that the Labour Party faced a mass defection of MPs, some of whom planned to join the Social Democrats.

It was accompanied by a photograph of Mr Cocks with the caption: "Chief Whip set to lead deserters."

The article quoted unidentified friends of Mr Cocks who claimed he was on the point of forming a caucus of his own followers, which would result in him deciding whether to become an independent Labour MP, join the SDP or leave politics altogether, and would provoke a crisis in his Bristol South constituency. There was not a word of truth in the allegations, Mr Browne said.

The newspaper agreed to pay damages and all legal costs.

Sneeze caused death

A lorry driver's sneeze ended the career of actress, Charlotte Long, and inquest in Oxford was told yesterday.

The sneeze caused Mr Brian Launders, of Slough, Berkshire, to hit the back of Miss Long's broken-down car on the hard shoulder of the M4

Miss Long, aged 18, daughter of Lord Long, died on October 6, three days after the accident, which happened as she was driving to her mother's home at Bradford-on-Avon. A verdict of accidental death was recorded.

1,000 new teachers still out of work

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Almost 1,000 teachers who completed their training last year are still out of work and looking for a job, according to figures published by the Department of Education and Science.

Those trained to teach in nursery, primary and middle schools have fared relatively badly in the employment market compared with teachers trained for secondary schools. Women are shown to be less employable than men. Both men and women with a postgraduate certificate in Education found it more difficult to find work that those with BEd degrees.

The statistics, which look at what happened to teachers who completed their training in 1983, show that 77 per cent got jobs (compared with 71 per cent the previous year).

A further 8 per cent decided not to go into teaching or went abroad. Of those who could not find work, nursery teachers had the most difficulty with 22 per cent of them remaining unemployed.

Teachers trained to teach art and light craft, English, religious education, history and geography at secondary level had more difficulty than those trained in comercial and business studies, home economics, craft, design and technology, chemistry and physics.

Powell attack

The government was accused yesterday of "barbarism" in wanting to spend money on science education at the expence of other subjects.

It was educational heresy to justify spending money on education to make factories and enterprises more profitable and competitive, Mr Enoch Powell told the annual dinner of the Merchant Taylors' Company in London.

"The state which tries to use its power to exalt and promote the one kind of learning to the disadvantage of the other is an inhuman and barbarous state," he said. "In the end it will bring down upon its subjects the penalties which attend upon all humanity and barbarism, when the greedy expectations attached to the advancement of science turn to bitterness and disillustionment."

Education was a good thing in itself, Mr Powell remarked. It was a strong human instinct and needed no secondary justification.

PIE men must stay in prison

Two leading members of Paedophile Information Exchange, the campaigning child sex group, must stay in jail, the Court of Appeal ruled yesterday.

Both men, who are targets for violence from other prisoners, must serve their full sentences, Mr Justice MacPherson, sitting with Lord Justice O'Connor and Mr Justice Evans, said.

The two, David Bremner, aged 45 and David Joy, aged 43, were members of the executive of PIE which disbanded in August. They were convicted and jailed at the Central Criminal Court in November of sending indecent material through the post.

Bremner, a former bio-chemist, of Upper Clapton Road, Clapton, east London was jailed for six months. Joy, an unemployed mathematics teacher, of Russell Street, Loughborough, Leicestershire, who was also found guilty of publishing an obscene article, was jailed for 18 months.

Damages for sheepdog trialists

Hywel Jones and Ellis Edwards, the sheepdog trialists won undisclosed libel damages in the High Court yesterday from the BBC and HTV over allegations that they tried to improperly influence a competition judge.

Mr Jonathan Sofer, their counsel, told Deputy Judge Mr Patrick Bennett, QC, that the allegation was "wholly untrue".

It was now accepted by the BBC and HTV, who screened the allegation in November 1982, that both men had not been guilty of any misconduct. They agreed to pay the men suitable libel damages and their legal costs.

Peking order

An academy of science laboratory in Peking is to get £250,000 of specialist laboratory furniture and equipment, designed by Nottinghamshire county architects' department, and made by the consortium CLASP.

Times supplement failed to substantiate charge

After printing an allegation reflecting on a parent-teacher association, a newspaper had a clear duty either to substantiate it or retract, the Press Council said today.

It upheld a complaint against *The Times Educational Supplement, Scotland* by the parent-teacher association at Bellahouston Academy, 20 Gower Terrace, Glasgow.

The newspaper published an article by its deputy editor, Mr Neil Munro, about a consortia plan for Strathclyde secondary schools to increase the range of specialist subjects available.

The article mentioned the zeal and excitement among Strathclyde education officials, but said that teachers' and parents' reactions had tended to concentrate on the quality of the local bus service or, "as in the case of Bellahouston, anonymous leaflets cautioning parents against their children consorting with Roman Catholics".

Later the newspaper published a letter from Mr David Liddell, the Educational Institute for Scotland representative at Bellahouston, which said that the only leaflets sent out by the association were neither anonymous nor sectarian in tone or content.

The letter was published with an editor's footnote saying that the description of the leaflets as anonymous should have made it evident that there was no gratuitous slur intended against parents and teachers at the school.

Later Mrs A D Hudson, secretary of the association, wrote to Mr Munro asking for a copy of the offending leaflet or at least an indication of the source of the information.

Mr Munro replied that there was no suggestion, although perhaps an implication which he regretted, that the leaflet originated within the academy. The newspaper would be willing to say so. He offered space for a letter as an alternative.

The Press Council said that the offer to publish a letter from the complainant was not a sufficient remedy, nor was the publication of another letter on the subject with a footnote saying that no slur was intended against parents and teachers.

Gorbachov says Soviet trade with Britain will grow by nearly half

By John Lawless

Anglo-Soviet trade, after years in the doldrums, is about to expand faster than anything seen in the past decade, Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the number two in the Kremlin, told businessmen at a lunch in London yesterday.

The Soviet visitor said that in discussions with Mrs Margaret Thatcher this week "our assessment is that we can increase the level of trade in the near future by between 40 and 50 per cent," he also spoke of the "increased political role" of business links, and said trade embargoes hurt most those who put them in place.

Listing the sectors which hold the best opportunities for British companies, he first mentioned motor vehicles.

He then read out a list of areas in which he rated British chances most highly up to 1990: chemicals, the oil and gas industries, metallurgy, engineering, consumer goods and agriculture and food processing and packaging.

It is believed that Soviet teams have had considerable difficulties in recent months in deep-drilling for oil, and British Gas and Shell recently discussed the possibility of using North Sea technology in the Barents Sea.

British trade specialists are particularly encouraged by an important policy switch by the Russians in considering for the first time turn-key projects, in which foreign contractors are allowed to handle virtually the whole operation in the development of new complexes.

The Austrians were allowed to do so for the first time in building a steel mill and it is assumed that in the important industrial sector, other foreign companies will be permitted to operate more or less on Western commercial lines.

All the projects mentioned by Mr Gorbachov come under the new Soviet Five Year Plan, due to start in 1986. The fact that he mentioned that John Brown Engineering, David McKee and ICI were bidding for chemical plants worth more than £1 billion reinforces the widespread belief that Britain is a front-runner for these projects.

Gorbachov mentioned for the first time that he had also discussed the possibility of it putting up a new fertilizer and pesticides complex.

Behind the euphoria, though, is the fact that UK–Soviet trade has shrunk to a low level in recent years, and any improvement will come from a comparatively low base.

Britain was the major western supplier of imports in the 1950s, but now ranks ninth. Its share of sales has dropped from more than 9 per cent to barely 3 per cent in the past 10 years. Although there has been an apparent strong surge in UK exports this year of more than 50 per cent, worth £602 million by the end of October, two-thirds of the increase has been accounted for by sales of tin and silver through the London metal market.

Soviet credit worthiness is still extremely good and the possibility of greatly increased trade will come as one of the most welcome aspects of Mr Gorbachov's week-long visit.

● OXFORD: Mr Gorbachov got a close look yesterday at the technology Austin Rover soon hopes to export to Moscow

He spent two hours at the factory at Cowley, Oxford and saw the techniques used to produce Maestro, Montego and Rover cars.

Austin Rover is among a number of companies competing for a contract to modernize the Moskovitch factory in the Soviet capital.

The Cowley factory has some of the most up-to-date equipment and systems, including a battery of robots.

When the Soviet party swept into the plant, seven Ukrainians staged a silent demonstration, part of a week-long protest by the emigré community in Britain against the imprisonment of their countrymen.

Members of the 35,000-strong Ukrainian community in Britain are staging protests wherever they know Mr Gorbachov is appearing.

Later, Mr Gorbachov's wife, Raisa, paid a surprise visit to Christ Church, Oxford. It was thought she had cancelled the visit, but she turned up unexpectedly and staff hastily arranged for a guide to show her the hall and cathedral which forms part of the college.



Driving force: Mr Gorbachov in a Montego MG at the Cowley plant (photograph: Bill Warhurst).

Secret mission crew: The five members to man the next space shuttle flight carrying a US military spy satellite above the Soviet Union pose with their insignia. The flight, due for launch on January 23, has been shrouded in secrecy and dogged by controversy. The crew are (from left) Air Force Major Gary Payton, Air Force Lieutenant-Colonel Loren Shriver, Navy Captain Thomas Mattingly, Marine Lieutenant-Colonel Jim Buchli and Air Force Major Ellison Onizuka.

US asks Europe to back Star Wars

From Christopher Thomas
Washington

The United States has embarked on an intensive drive to unite its European allies behind its controversial Star Wars programme, emphasizing that Western Europe would benefit from space-based weapons capable of destroying incoming Soviet missiles.

The Reagan Administration is confident that neither Mrs Margaret Thatcher nor Chancellor Helmut Kohl, of West Germany will do anything to weaken America's united front with its Nato allies over the Star Wars initiative. Mrs Thatcher and Herr Kohl have expressed general concern about the militarization of space, a concern shared by President Reagan.

But the Administration is worried by the more forthright reservations about the Star Wars programme expressed by President Mitterrand of France.

Mr Caspar Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, told foreign correspondents in Washington on Wednesday that M Mitterand was "relatively negative." He denied that Mrs Thatcher and Herr Kohl were opposed to the Star Wars programme.

He said they were looking for more information, a lot of which had now been conveyed. "I don't think there is any opposition to the idea of perfecting, and of trying to develop through research, a programme of defences."

The Star Wars programme, properly known as the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), is a research project into space weaponry, such as the use of laser beams and other non-nuclear ways of destroying incoming missiles. The Soviet Union is strongly denouncing the SDI, claiming that it would lead to the militarization of space.

Critics in the US and Europe argue that pursuing the SDI is at odds with President Reagan's declared determination to enter serious arms reduction talks with the Soviet Union.

The Administration is leading up to the critical US-Soviet arms talks in Geneva on January 7 and 8 with a series of conciliatory statements designed, in part, to mollify European concern about the research programme. Mr Weinberger repeatedly emphasized that the SDI was intended to protect both Western Europe and the United States. "The security of the United States is inseparable from the security of Western Europe," he said.

Mr Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, pledged flexibility in the talks, which will be conducted between Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, and Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister.

Mr Weinberger dismissed the concept of Fortress America. "It cannot work. There were some people who recommended it twice, in two world wars, and it failed. You can't have a fortress any place concept. America could not live in a world in which Europe was overrun."

Referring to the Soviet SS23 intermediate range missile, Mr Weinberger said that the SDI of the kind the US was planning would be equally effective in dealing both with intermediate range and strategic range weapons.

● BRUSSELS: One thousand five hundred SS20 warheads will be pointing at targets from the Soviet Union before very long (Frederick Bonnart writes).

Mr Richard Burt, the US Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs, said that he expected the present total of 387 SS20 launchers to rise to between 450 and 500 when the temporary lag in starting the construction of new bases in the western Soviet Union had been overcome.

David Watt, page 14

Russians test space shuttle

New York (AP) – The Soviet Union yesterday launched a spacecraft into orbit that made a "controlled descent" back to earth. The New York Times reported that it was a third-scale model of a winged, reusable space shuttle. The Cosmos 1614 test fulfilled the flight programme, Tass said.

EEC beats fishing deadline

From Ian Murray, Brussels

For the first time ever the EEC has succeeded in agreeing on the share-out of the Community fish catch before the start of a new year.

The quick agreement was reached early yesterday morning by dividing up the available catch among member states, according to the terms of the new common fisheries policy (CFP).

The relatively easy end to the negotiations is a good sign that the CFP will succeed in managing fish stocks in Community waters in future.

The main difficulty was in sorting out what to do about the significant drop in tha amount of fish in the waters off Greenland, which is due to leave the EEC next year. A legal way of allowing Greenland to act though it was no longer bound by EEC rules is now expected to be found by officials

Fisheries ministers agreed to take advantage of the fact that Britain and West Germany had been able to catch their agreed Greenland quota this year, by allowing them to continue trying to catch their full 1984 allocation of cod next year.

The council was not prepared to give any more fish to Spain than last year, proof that it is determined to maintain a tough line on the subject in negotiations over Spanish EEC membership.

Ten earmark £750m for research

From Our Own Correspondent, Brussels

The EEC now has its very own modest research programme, after Ministers agreed on Wednesday to spend about £750 million over the next five years on eight projects.

According to Viscount Etienne Davignon, the EEC commissioner in charge of the subject, "there is now a real policy and a real movement". It meant that research was no longer a second-class subject in Europe.

About half the money will go to the Joint European Taurus (JET) programme at Culham in Berkshire. The experiment in fusion techniques is now assured, although the money available is considered by Britain to be the bare minimum

The other programmes include work on radio-protection, biotechnology, non-nuclear energies, reactor safety, disposal of radioactive waste, and industrial technologies. They are to be funded for four to five years.

But work cannot start immediately, since the Community has no budget approved

Concern in Libya for two Britons

By Henry Stanhope
Diplomatic Correspondent

The Foreign Office last night was awaiting further news of Mrs Susan Suweisi, the Englishwoman who has been held in Libya for the past 14 months after being convicted of adultery.

Mrs Suweisi, who was previously Miss Bugler of Salisbury, Wiltshire, is being detained in a "house of protection" until her Libyan husband, Mahmood, agrees to her release.

Alternatively she can try to obtain a divorce, which would allow her to return to relatives in Britain.

Mrs Suweisi, aged 33, met her husband when he was studying in Salisbury, and later returned with him to Libya where they have two children.

She was jailed for five days after being brought before a court last year, but when her husband and his family refused to have her back she was transferred to her present residence, where she is under virtual house arrest.

The Foreign Office heard several months ago that a British woman was in "jail" in Libya but located her only last month.

Since then a woman from the British community in Tripoli has visited Mrs Suweisi four times,

Meanwhile Mr Alan Russell, and English teacher from Suffolk who is facing charges, one connected with Libyan state security, made his second court appearance in Tripoli yesterday.

Evidence was heard from both the prosecution and defence. The judge said that verdict and sentence would be announced on January 6.

Andreotti carries Nato torch to Warsaw

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Poland's nervous attempts to rebuild diplomatic bridges with the West were resumed yesterday with the arrival in Warsaw of Signor Guilio Andreotti, the Italian Foreign Minister, one of the most senior Nato politicans to visit the country since the lifting of martial law.

Signor Andreotti's visit will be a complicated cluster of symbols, showing on the one hand through meetings with General Jaruzelski and Politburo members that Nato welcomes recent relaxations in Warsaw and on the other hand, through gestures and informal contacts, that the West has not forgotten the unhappy lot of the Polish people.

Signor Andreotti's visit was preceded by that of Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, who tried to strike the same balance. But he drew the ire of the Jaruzelski leadership when he laid a wreath at the grave of murdered Solidarity priest Father Jerzy Popieluszko, met Solidarity advisers and he openly expressed his scepticism about some Polish Government policies.

Signor Andreotti thus faces a dilemma: should he follow in Mr Rifkind's footsteps and risk offending the Polish Government to such an extent that it would jeopardize the diplomatic aim of the visit or should he maintain a business-as-usual approach.

UK envoys seen as spies in Iran

Tehran (Reuter) – A leading Iranian newspaper said yesterday that British diplomats in Tehran might be spies

The Farsi-language newspaper Islamic Republic said Iran should put pressure on Britain to reduce its diplomatic staff.

Britain formally closed its embassy in Tehran in 1980 after the Islamic revolution, but it kept on diplomats in a British-interests section of the Swedish embassy.

The newspaper, which generally follows the line of Ayatollah Khomeini, said Iran should ask Britain what the 70 people working in the British-interests section were doing.

Fight to save Le Monde moves to boardroom

From Alan Tillier, Paris

The battle to save Le Monde moved yesterday to the paper's boardroom after the failure of the journalists to agree upon a new editor-managing director.

One of the paper's senior editors said: "I am pessimistic about Le Monde avoiding closure. We need to find 30 million francs (£2.7 million) by the end of the month to pay salaries and meet demands of the banks".

The famous evening paper, which celebrated its 40th anniversary this week is on the brink of a shutdown despite a last minute move by the journalists whose 40 per cent of the capital gives them the decisive voice.

The journalists have agreed to set up a committee to examine their own role and power, as well as proposed editorial solutions to falling circulation and rising debts. This new group, made up of journalists and non-journalists, will report in two weeks but many observers think the bankers will not wait that long.

The banks are the paper's main creditors. The biggest bank involved is the state-owned Banque Nationale de Paris.

Israel settles one of its two crises

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem

Israel's Government of National Unity marks its first 100 days in office tomorrow with its first internal crisis solved. But the seeds of a second, potentially more serious one, were sown over deadlocked negotiations on troop withdrawal from Lebanon.

Political commentators have warned that differences over Israel's future in Lebanon could threaten the Government next year after this week's call by Mr Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, for a unilateral Israeli pullout.

Such a move is strongly opposed by some leading figures in the right-wing Likud faction, notably Mr Ariel Sharon, Minister of Trade and Industry and chief architect of the 1982 Lebanon war. The Likud leader, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, told party colleagues this week: "We entered this coalition in order not to give up Judea and Samaria (the West Bank) and not to run away from Lebanon unconditionally."

The solution of the crisis over allocation of portfolios to the two main religious parties came in the early hours of yesterday morning, shortly before the expiry of the deadline set by the Likud – which had threatened to walk out of the Cabinet.

Although the crisis was resolved, it has left a residue of bitterness between right and left likely to be further exacerbated if the deadlocked military talks with Lebanon over troops withdrawal break down.

Yesterday, discussions broke for a Christmas recess with an Israely threat that they may never resume next month if there is not a significant change in Lebanon's stand. Such movement by Beirut is not expected as Syria is reluctant to sanction it.

Brigadier General Amos Gilboa, chief of the Israeli delegation warned that Israel would be unlikely to resume the talks if Lebanon did not respond "positively" during the recess to a call for United Nations troops to be given an expanded role in southern Lebanon.

The general accused the Lebanese of increasing intransigence during recent sessions. His toughly-worded statement reflected a belief here that the talks have reached a dead end, forcing Isael to decide alone what its next move will be.

Mr Peres told anti-war protesters this week that he was in favour of a full withdrawal, an attitude apparently shared by Mr Yitzhak Rabin, his Defence Minister. But others in the Cabinet support only a partial pullback and the debate is expected to become the dominant issue.

As one Israeli official observed about the need for a decision on various military options that have been put forward: "There can be no good choice; the choices are between bad and worse.

● NAQOURA: After another fruitless day of negotiations at the UN headquarters in Naqoura, southern Lebanon, Israeli Army officers yesterday threatened to break off their troop withdrawal talks with the Lebanese Army unless Beirut agreed to the deployment of UN soldiers between the Awali and the Litani rivers, only 20 miles south of Beirut and along a line stretching from the Mediterranean to the Syrian frontier (Our Middle East Correspondent writes).

For their part, the Lebanese – who now insist that any UN force must be positioned south of the Litani and control the area right down to the Israeli border – accused the Israelis of making "too many conditions we cannot accept".

By any measure, the talks at UN headquarters at Naqoura were heavy with pessimism and foreboding. Israeli military delegates were hinting strongly that even if they turned up for the next round of negotiations on January 7, their Army might begin its withdrawal from the Awali river and out of Sidon before that date, an event which Lebanon fears could precipitate a civil war around the country's third largest city.

So much mutual suspicion clouds the proposals of both Israelis and Lebanese that it was probably inconceivable that any progress could have been made yesterday.

Scientists in Bhopal find more poison gas

Bhopal (Reuter, AP) Scientists have found more methyl isocyanate, the deadly gas which killed 2,500 people in the world's worst industrial accident, than was indicated in records at Union Carbide's factory here, a scientist said.

As residents continued to return in large numbers, Mr S Aradarajan, head of the team converting the chemical into pesticide, told reporters that 19 tonnes had been neutralized and three tonnes remained in steel drums, pipes and a tank.

In Danbury, Connecticut, Union Carbide has hired Burson-Martseller, a New York public relations firm, to develop a long-term strategy in an attempt to repair damage done to its image.

Pudding eater regains voice

Sydney (Reuter)–Marie Heffernan, aged 25, has regained the power of speech which she lost 12 years ago after eating a piece of Christmas pudding.

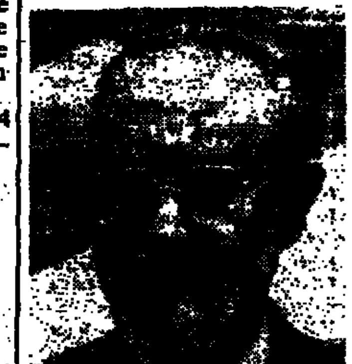
She had a coughing fit this week and spat out a 1959 silver threepenny piece which her mother had put in the pudding. The coin had lodged between her vocal cords and prevented them from vibrating, doctors said.

Dressing down for civilians

Jerusalem (Reuter) – Israeli military police have been forcing civilians in army clothes to return them – sometimes there and then.

"Operation Undress", aimed at reclaiming tens of thousands of unreturned army clothes, has meant people having to remove shirts, coats and even trousers in the streets.

Pisani plan



M Edgard Pisani (above), France's special envoy in New Caledonia, said in Paris yesterday that he was convinced a solution was possible on the troubled island. He said after an hour-long meeting with President Mitterrand that proposals would be put to the different sides next month. He gave no details.

Going West

New York (Reuter) – The Statue of Liberty's torch was flown to California where it will lead the New Year's Day Tournament of Roses parade to raise funds to restore the rusting monument.

Boy sacrificed

Delhi (AP) – A kidnapped boy aged seven, was sacrificed in a bloody temple ritual in northern Uttar Prudesh state by a priest who said his death would exorcise a demon in another man, the United News of India press agency said.

Visa switch

Peking (AFP)–Business people and tourists visiting China will soon be able to obtain their visas on arrival at Peking airport rather than from Chinese embassies abroad, a Chinese official said here.

Christmas bugs

Tromso, Norway (Reuter) – An average Christmas tree has about 30,000 bugs and insects on it, Mr Arne Fjellberg, a scientist here, said. Microscopic investigation revealed midges, fleas, lice, parasite wasps, spiders and beatles most of which die, after some days.

Spanish uproar over Gadaffi's flying visit

From Harry Debelius
Madrid

All Libyan troops were out of Chad by September 16 and "any one can go and see for himself" Colonel Gadaffi, the Libyan leader, said in Majorca yesterday.

At a news conference the morning after his surprise five-hour meeting on the island with the Spanish Prime Minister, Señor Felipe González, and the former Austrian chancellor, Dr Bruno Kreisky, Colonel Gadaffi also denied accusations of links with the Basque terrorist organisation, ETA (Basque Homeland and Liberty).

The unannounced meeting took place at the instigation of Dr Kreisky, who arranged the Libyan leader's "private" visit to Spain and took part in the talks. Colonel Gadaffi flew in, without notice to news media, about midday on Wednesday. The Spanish Prime Minister arrived from Madrid in the afternoon.

At an earlier, separate news conference at the end of the meeting, Señor González said no specific agreement were reached, but there was "reciprocal loyalty in our relationship".

Señor Gonzaález said he received assurances from the Libyan leader that the recent unity pact between Libya and Morocco would not harm Spanish interests. The meetng was arranged to discuss how Spain could co-operate with North African countries.

The Spanish Prime Minister said the question of terrorism did not come up, and added: "Neither Spain nor Libya would do anything to disturb the stability of the other country".

The references to ETA were timely, because of newly-published evidence strongly suggesting that Libya sent a cheque for $900,000 (£750,000) to an ETA leader in France only a few months ago.

Spanish newspapers attacked the Prime Minister for meeting Colonel Gadaffi and at least two big papers demanded that he explain in Parliament the circumstances and the outcome of the talks.

El País, which usually sides with the Government, was particularly hostile. In a leading article, it spoke of "the facilities which international terrorism ... has obtained in Libya from the hands of this leader, whom some believe to be a lunatic. His activity and that of his activist groups have generated such serious episodes as the one at the Libyan Embassy in London".

The paper referred to the Majorca meeting, which a government spokesman discribed as an act of "direct diplomacy" as "a circus".

The leading article said: "The conditions of surprise and misinformation surrounding the talks in Majorca give the impression that Libyan interests were uppermost."

The liberal *Diario 16* editorially raosted Señor González for meeting on Spanish soil with "the terrorist politician who sends abundant cash to finance ETA, the organization which represents the principal danger to the stability of Spanish democracy".

● PARIS: French and Greek military officers who are already in Tripoli, will go to Chad to monitor the withdrawal of Libyan troops, M Charles Hernu, the French Defence Minister, said yesterday (Reuter reports).

His remarks to journalists came after an announcement by M Roland Dumas, the Foreign Minister.

● DAKAR: The Gambia and Libya have decided to resume diplomatic relations immediately, it was announced in Banjul (Susan MacDonald writes).

Relations were broken off by The Gambia in 1980 amid accusations that the Libyans were training young Gambians with a view to overthrowing the regime of President Jawark.





Three faces of Gadaffi: The Libyan leader in a variety of moods after his talks with Señor González

Mild spell saves wine harvest in Germany

Oestrich-Winkel, West Germany (Reuter) – Growers of the world's northernmost commercial wines are relieved and delighted that the bulk of their 1984 crop has been saved after coming close to catastrophe.

"Pleasant little table wines" is how Count Erwin Matuschka-Greiffenklau described this year's wine from his family estate, Schloss Vollrads, above this ancient winegrowing town, beside the Rhine.

As President of the West German Estate Winegrowers' Association, he said this picture could be applied across the nation's vineyards, although there were regional bright spots where qualities were better than average. Experts speak of a modest but very drinkable vintage.

The surprisingly favourable outcome of 1984's harvest for West German growers, who concentrate mainly on white wines, contrasted with the gloom of a few weeks ago.

A drenching, sunless summer followed by an unusually chilly autumn left the grapes stil unripe on the eve of harvest. On top of this, there were mildew outbreaks.

"The first two weeks of November were the best summer we had this year," Count Matuschka joked. Many growers had left their grapes on the vine late and the unseasonable dry, sunny spell saved the crop.

The 1984 yield is estimated at between 770 and 780 million litres, 40 per cent down on last year but only about 15 per cent under the long-term average.

Greeks in Albania allowed closer links with Athens

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Albania, the most isolated and introvert of all the communist states in the Balkans, has agreed to allow closer contacts between its Greek minority and Greece.

Mr Karolos Papoulias, the Greek Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, said: "To the extent that our relations with Albania improve, the Greek minority will be facilitated in its contacts with Greece. In the first phase, this will benefit the aged and the sick."

He was speaking after a trip to Albania earlier this month, the first political visit at Cabinet level in more than 40 years – since Italy used Albania as a springboard to invade Greece in the Second World War.

Albania recently put out feelers to Greece and a few Western countries for improving relations in all fields. Greece responded in a positive way by renouncing its old territorial claim on southern Albania (north Epirus), but also voicing concern about the well-being of the Greek minority there.

Ethnic Greeks flee regularly from Albania and give a grim picture of oppression and denial of basic freedoms to the minority, particularly freedom of worship, so vital to Greeks. A recent Amnesty International report spoke of cruelty in Albanian prison camps.

Mr Papoulias suggested that Amnesty had to rely on the accounts of refugees which were not always accurate.

The minister, who was born on the Albanian side of the border, said he had met several schoolmates from the Greek minority who held important posts in the administration. Officially, the Albanians estimate the Greek minority to number about 50,000, but Mr Papoulias's own guess was nearer 200,000 ethnic Greeks.

There was nothing Greece could do about the suppression of religion, he said. "Albania is the only officially atheistic country in the world and any demarche would consitute an interference in their internal affairs."

Thanks to five agreements he signed during his visit, however, it would be possible to send experts from Greece to coach teachers for the minority schools; postal delivery of letters and parcels would be expedited; the main highway between the two countries, closed since 1940, would be reopened at Kakavia pass on January 1; and the Greeks in Albania would be able to telephone relatives in Greece.

What seems to be inducing the Greeks to give priority to closer political relations with Albania is their concern about developments in that country once its leader, Mr Enver Hoxha, aged 76, who has been at the helm for the past 40 years, goes.

They fear that because of tense relations with neighbouring Yugoslavia, his successors might turn to the Soviet Union for support. Greek officials believe this could destabilize not only the Balkans but the entire Mediterranean.

Military shake-up, page 9

Sri Lanka PM given security job

From Donovan Moldrich
Colombo

Sri Lanka's Prime Minister, Mr Ranasinghe Premadasa, was sworn in by President Jayawardene yesterday as Minister of Emergency Civil Administration, in addition to his other duties.

The new ministry will prepare and implement a plan to protect roads, bridges, electricity and water supplies and maintain essential services, including food, fuel health and transport. Mr Premadasa said the Government was prepared to face any challenges to the unity of the state from Tamil separatists.

The Ministry of National Security yesterday announced that it was prepared to provide training in the use of firearms for licensed gun owners in Colombo.

On Wednesday, the Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, and Employment, Mr Ranil Wickremasinghe, was entrusted with a new Ministry of Manpower Mobilization, which will draw up schemes for voluntary, or compulsory national service, depending on the needs of the armed forces.

A curfew was imposed from 1pm yesterday to 5am today in the predominantly Roman Catholic town of Negombo, 22 miles north of Colombo, in connection with the funeral of one of the army officers killed by Tamil rebles in the north-eastern district of Trincomalee on Wednesday.

Pope hits at totalitarian regimes

Rome (Reuter) – The Pope said in a peace message issued yesterday that totalitarian regimes and ideologies bear a great responsibility for the precarious nature of peace today.

In a 19-page message for the Roman Catholic Church's 18th World Day of Peace to be celebrated on January 1, the Pope said the world's present difficulties were a test for humanity.

The Pope addressed the message particularly to young peple, but also to parents, teachers, those suffering from injustice and to political leaders, who he said "bear direct responsibility for the cause of peace".

The Pope said the world was faced with many threats of war. Without mentioning specific political ideologies or nations, he emphasized the responsibility of totalitarian regimes and ideologies in contributing to world instability.

"Such ultimate causes of conflict are to be found especially in the ideologies that have dominated our century and continue to do so, manifesting themselves in political, economic and social systems and taking control of the way people think.

"These ideologies are marked by a totalitarian attitude that disregards and oppresses the dignity and transcendent values of the human person and his or her rights."

Vote for Zia put at 98% but opponents doubt size of turnout

Islamabad (AP) – General Zia-ul-Haq has been elected President of Pakistan by more than 98 per cent of votes cast in a *national referendum,* the state-run Pakistan radio announced *yesterday on the basis* of preliminary results.

The broadcast said results showed that 64 per cent of 35 million registered voters took part in Wednesday's ballot despite a call for a boycott by clandestine opposition movements.

Opposition leaders claimed the referendum was rigged "on a vast scale" and said the real turn-out was less than 5 per cent *in some places.*

With all opposition campaigning banned, General Zia asked voters to endorse him as President for a five-year term and to approve his programme for total Islamization of the laws and practices of Pakistan.

The polls closed 90 minutes *later than planned on* Wednesday to accommodate what the authorities said was an unprecedented last-minute rush. Reporters who toured polling stations in Islamabad and neighbouring Rawalpindi at that time found them almost deserted.

Pakistan radio said full results had been received early on Thursday from 32 electoral districts, about one-third of the total, and that more than 13 million votes had been counted. The National Election Commission said earlier that it would not announce results *until the final count* was completed on Saturday.

The Government news agency, the Associated Press of Pakistan, gave final results from *many urban areas including* Islamabad. It said the turn-out in the capital was 53.4 per cent, with 76.046 of valid votes for General Zia and 2,123 against, a majority of 97.2 per cent.

● **CLAIMS QUERIED:** The Government claim of an overwhelming affirmative vote has been seriously questioned by all opposition (Hasan Akhtar writes).

Most acknowledged opposition parties had already called for a boycott. Three principal *leaders of the eleven opposition* party alliance, the Movement *for Restoration of Democracy,* have asserted that independent accounts of voting showed not more than 5 per cent turnout.

General Tikka Khan, a former Army Chief of Staff and the late Mr Bhutto's Defence *Minister, yesterday accused the* martial law administration of massive rigging to achieve an alleged record turnout in support of General Zia. General Tikka, acting Secretary-General of the late Mr Bhutto's People's Party said that the *MRD* had demanded that the chief *election commissioner resign* for failing to hold a fair referendum. He also asked General Zia to step down because, according to him, he had failed to win the vote and public confidence.

MRD leaders have called on people to observe protest *meetings at prayers today.*

Germans on Christmas alert for terrorists

From Michael Binyon
Bonn

The West German Federal public prosecutor has told people to be on their guard over Christmas and report any suspicious activities after the claim by the underground Red *Army Faction that it* was responsible for the attempted bombing of a Nato traning school in Oberammergau.

General Kurt Rebmann said about 15 wanted ringleaders of the faction, formerly known as the Baader-Meinhof gang, were still at large, and were equipped with weapons and money. He asked the public to tell the police of any unusual attempts to rent flats, hire warehouses or keep watch on people.

On Tuesday police defused a *55lb bomb in the boot of a car* outside the Nato training centre. A young man was seen running off after parking the car, which had American licence plates stolen from another car. Yesterday a woman *caller* told a Munich newspaper that the Red Army Faction had planted the bomb, which failed to explode because of a defective time-fuse.

Police suspect that the attack, thefirst for some years by the once-powerful terrorist group, might be linked to a hunger *strike by imprisoned Red Army* Faction leaders. Some 35 suspected terrorists have joined in the protest begun in Stammheim top security prison on December 4. They are fasting to back a demand that they should all be grouped together.

Police announced yesterday that the explosives found in the car on Tuesday originated in Belgium.



Minister's plea: Herr Genscher (centre) emerging from the West German Embassy in Prague after his appeal to the East German refugees.

Genscher asks Prague refugees to quit

From Our Own Correspondent, Bonn

Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, yesterday urged the 63 East German refugees in the West German Embassy in Prague to return home, saying this was the only way they could get exit visas to the West.

Meeting the would-be emigrants, including the 40 who are on hunger strike, at the end of his three-day visit to Czechoslovakia, Herr Genscher assured them that East Berlin had promised not to punish those who returned home. But he said Bonn had been unable to obtain any guarrantee that they would be allowed to leave.

Bonn has already twice sent Herr Ludwig Rehlinger, the *official* who has been conducting the arduous negotiations *with East Berlin, to Prague* to urge the refugees to leave. But Herr *Heinrich* Windelen, the Minister for Intra-German Affairs, said a hard core were holding out. In a newspaper interview through the railings of the Prague embassy garden some of the refugees said they would continue their hunger strike until the bitter end.

On Tuesday Herr Genscher laid a wreath in Lidice, the Czech village where the men *were shot and* the women taken to concentration camps in 1942 in reprisal for the assassination of Heydrich. He also laid a wreath on the grave of a German soldier shot by the SS in May 1945

Chancellor Kohl yesterday accepted an invitation to visit Czechoslovakia next year.

Georgia's Stalin cult

Home town reveres its favourite son

From Richard Owen, Gori, Soviet Georgia

It begins in Tbilisi, where Stalin stares out stonily from a *frieze* high on the Party History Institute on Rustaveli Avenue, and gazes in full generalissimo's uniform from an oil painting in the savings bank next door.

There is a Stalin Embankment, a Stalin Bridge, even a Stalin Park, an appropriately joyless place set high above the town and reached by a rickety funicular railway. Every Georgian lorry driver's cab, every shop, has its photograph of Georgia's most famous son, revered in his homeland as he is reviled elsewhere.

The Stalin cult reaches a crescendo in Gori, two hours' *drive* away. Here Stalin *stands* outside the town hall on the main square, in the place normally reserved for Lenin. The one-roomed hut in which Stalin – then Josif Dhugashvili – was born is preserved as a shrine, its sparseness emphasizing the humble origins of the shoemaker's *son* who rose *to* become dictator.

Nearby is the grandiose Stalin Museum, founded in two modest rooms in *1939* but expanded in 1958 in defiance of Khrushchev's destalinization campaign. Inside, light pours through blue and yellow glass *on to white marble statues of* Stalin as a young revolutionary and as a war leader, and room after room of photographs depict his career in sanitized terms.

Guides speak reverently of a man who proclaimed *his* modesty to Tbilisi workers at a *1926* meeting, who *later* remarked: "As for me, I am only *Lenin's pupil*", and who in 1938 ordered a book about his childhood to be burned because it was "too grovelling".

There is no mention that in the 1930s Stalin also ordered the deaths of millions of people in the purges and enforced collectivization of agriculture. *Trotsky, Bukharin and other* prominent victims have literally been erased from *the* photographs as they were extinguished in life.

The museum emphasizes Stalin's genius *as* a wartime commander, and all visitors *over 50* react with emotion to the sound of Stalin's disembodied voice delivering his 1941 rallying call to the nation. In the tomb-like chill of the final room Stalin's death mask lies on a marble plinth sunk in the floor, surrounded by white columns. A painting of his lying-in-state hangs *on the* wall.

Not all Georgians admire Stalin, whose terror struck *down* the Georgian intelligentsia as well. "He was capricious and cruel", one Tbilisi resident said. "But he led us against Hitler, and left the Soviet Union more powerful than ever."

The forthcoming 40th anniversary of the end of the Second World War has given impetus to a campaign all over the Soviet Union to rehabilitate Stalin, at least partially.

All Russians *have* mixed feelings about him, and very few would go along with the view presented at Gori. On the other *hand,* the *museum* is expecting huge numbers from *all over the country to come to* Gori to mark Stalin's 105th birthday today; not perhaps the 45,000 who came for the centenary, but enough to confirm the new interest in a man who for years has been almost unmentionable.

In recent months Stalin has been increasingly *discussed or* mentioned in the Soviet media. Television has shown him in his white marshal's uniform at Yalta and Potsdam, and addressing the nation at the outbreak of war, when he spoke of "brothers and sisters" instead of "comrades", and *appealed to history and religion* rather than Marx and Lenin.

The new film, *Marshal Zhukov,* depicts a Stalin who *was often* indecisive *or* arbitrary, but who was also often firm, intelligent and wise. Even Stalin's role in the revolution is under discussion, with a re-emergence of the (false) suggestion that Stalin was prominent in 1917 and always backed Lenin.

The Gori museum intends to expand still further for next May's Victory Day celebrations, with sections on *Stalin and his generals (avoiding* his slaughter of Red Army *officers), and one on Stalin's* family, including his son, Yakov, who died a German captive in 1943. The news that Svetlana, Stalin's errant daughter, might live in Tbilisi rather than Moscow stirred local pride.

At a wine cellar in Tbilisi, the moustachioed shopkeeper pulled back a curtain to reveal a private collection of Stalin photos and mementoes. "I shall be drinking *his health on* Friday", he said with a broad *smile, raising an earthenware* bowl of Kakhetian wine. "Here's to a true son of Georgia."

Mintoff visit cements Malta's Moscow links

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

Mr Dom Mintoff, the Prime Minister of Malta, left Moscow *yesterday after four days of talks* which set the seal of close ties between Malta and the Soviet Union, and confirmed Malta's role in Russia's strategy for gaining influence on the Mediterranean.

Mr Mintoff was given a red carpet send-off to match his red carpet welcome on Monday. At Moscow airport for his departure were *Mr Nikolai Tikhonov,* the Prime Minister, and Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Foreign Minister, both of whom had held talks with Mr Mintoff during the visit.

The highlight of the trip was Mr Mintoff's meeting on Wednesday with President Chernenko, who used the occasion to underline Moscows desire for East-West *detente.*

A statement on the talks said the two sides had agreed on the need to ban nuclear-capable ships from the Mediterranean, and that no nuclear weapons should be allowed on the territory of non-nuclear powers in the area.

Diplomats have speculated that Malta may sign a treaty of friendship with Moscow, and may support the Soviet view that Spains membership of Nato upsets the political balance in the Mediterranean, even *though Spain is not yet fully* intergrated into the Nato military structure.

Malta may now be hoping for greater Soviet investment in the island, including orders for Malta's shipbuilding industry.

Malta and Russia signed an agreement honouring Malta's *neutrality three years ago,* together with a five-year trade agreement.

A communiqué issued by Tass after the visit called for the Mediterranean to be turned into "a zone of stable peace, security and co-operation". It also called *for the extension of military* confidence-building measures to the region, a "co-ordinated reduction of armed forces" in the region.



Mr Mintoff: Received red carpet treatment.

The communiqué proposed a commitment by the nuclear powers, including the Soviet Union, "not to use nuclear weapons against any mediterranean country which dose not allow nuclear weapons *on* its territory.

Mr Tikhonov accepted an invitation to visit Malta, but no date has been agreed.

Police return all but two of ITN's cassettes

Johannesburg. – The South African security Police yesterday *returned* all but two of the 33 video cassettes they seized on Wednesday in a raid on the office here of ITN (Michael Hornsby writes).

A spokesman for ITN said that one of the cassettes still held by police contained an interview with Mrs Ela Ramgobin, the granddaughter of *Mahatma Gandhi* and a senior member of the Natal Indian Congress, a radical *opposition* group.

Mrs Ramgobin's husband, Newa, is one of eight United Democratic Front and Natal Indian Congress members charged with treason. It is thought the raid on the ITN office may have been *to collect evidence* thatt could be used at a treason trial expected in the new year.



In harmony: Children singing for Mrs Thatcher during her visit to a Hong Kong nursery school.

Hong Kong angry at lack of say in drafting law

From Mary Lee, Peking

Hong Kong people are likely to resent that, as with the Sino-British declaration, they will have no direct say in the drafting of their future constitution, or basic law.

On Wednesday Mrs Margaret Thatcher, in Peking to sign the agreement under which the colony will revert to Chinese rule in 1997 told the British press: "You wouldn't expect representatives of Hong Kong to sit on the drafting committee because it will be drawn up by the Chinese ... the basic law is the law of China. You would expect China to draft it."

The Prime Minister went to great lengths to stress that Chinese leaders had assured her that they would solicit "a wide range of opinion in Hong Kong" on the drafting.

This means that the future constitution will stipulate that China's socialist system and socialist policies will not be extended to the Hong Kong special administration region and Hong Kong's capitalist system and lifestyle will remain unchanged for 50 years from the takeover.

Sir Percy Cradock, former British ambassador in Peking, who played a leading role throughout the negotiations, said: "You've got great chunks of the basic law already in the agreement", a reference to Annex 1 which sets out the framework of Hong Kong's future administration, including its legal, monetary, economic, judicial, education, transportation systems as well as "basic rights and freedoms", which will remain largely unchanged for half a century after Hongkong is handed back to China.

Mrs Thatcher said, when asked if it was unreasonable that the people of Hong Kong should want actual representation on the basic law drafting committee: "That is not the point. The basic law is the law of China."

Pressed further on the point that the people of Hong Kong are insisting that people from a socialist system should not be drafting the basic law for another (capitalist) system, Mrs Thatcher snapped: "Who in Hong Kong is insisting that? In so far as it affects the people of Hong Kong, the basic law is stipulated in the annexes to the agement."

Mrs Thatcher, however, did throw some light on the role of the Sino-British liaison group which will be set up soon. It will, she said play a monitoring role in the implementation of the basic law which the Chinese Prime Minister, Mr Zhao Ziyang, told her, will be completed by 1990.

The liaison group will also be consulted she said, on political reforms in Hong Kong prior to Britain's departure.

Some groups in Hong Kong have already expressed concern that the liaison group will become an organ of power in Hong Kong, where it will be based from 1988. What Mrs Thatcher has said raises the possibility that the Sino-British team, which is being set up to ensure the smooth transition, will hamper the development of a democratic process in Hong Kong, since many people believe China will not allow Hong Kong to have a directly elected local government.

Trade accord may follow Sino-Soviet initiative

From Our Correspondent
Peking

The arrival of the Soviet Union's First Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Ivan Arkhipov, in Peking today is another step forward on the difficult road of Sino-Soviet relations.

Both countries have, in recent weeks, repeatedly expressed a desire for improvement in relations and Mr Arkhipov's eight-day visit is expected to result in the signing of a trade and economic relations agreement.

Mr Arkhipov is the highest-ranking Soviet official to visit Peking in 15 years and although he is unlikely to meet China's most important leader Mr Deng Xiaoping or party General Secretary Mr Hu Yaobang he will probably meet the Prime Minister, Mr Zhao Ziyang. The Chinese, flushed from the success of Mrs Margaret Thatcher's visit and her praise to their leadership, are unlikely to pass up this opportunity to show off their stable pragmatic and politically sophisticated approach that wants peace to achieve prosperity.

The visit is unlikely to reduce what China calls "the three obstacles" in their relations: the strength of the Soviet military presence along their common border, the Soviet presence in Afghanistan and the Kremlin's support of Vietnam's occupation of Cambodia.

Mr Hu told Japanese industrialists last month that the two nations might set up joint committees to promote trade and economic co-operation. The Soviet Union also needs light manufactured goods from China while China needs Soviet machinery to upgrade its factories in the north-east.

Mr Arkhipov is the right person to discuss these matters of mutual benefit with the Chinese: he is largely responsible for economic affairs and planning in the Soviet Union.

He was the senior Soviet adviser in China in the 1950s. It remains to be seen whether he will discuss with leaders here recently promulgated reforms of China's economic structure. The reform slogan (Socialism with Chinese characteristics), recent publicity surrounding the role of Marxist ideology in solving all of China's economic problems and the Deng leadership's attempts to remove the stranglehold of Stalinist economic planning on China make this a highly sensitive topic.

24 Greek officers go in purge

From Mario Modiano
Athens

Eighteen Army generals, five admirals, and one air marshal have been discharged by the Socialist Government in the past 48 hours in an extensive shake-up of the Greek military leadership.

The changes, which for the first time put an Air Force officer, Air Chief Marshal Nikos Kouris, at the top of the armed forces, involved the replacement of all the commanders of army corps and regional units, the fleet and tactical air force.

A Government spokesman, rejecting opposition accusations that this was a partisan purge.

However, the newspaper *Avghi*, mouthpiece of the Greek Eurocommunists, claimed yesterday that the purge was ordered when documents seized in the homes of right-wing retired officers, during investigations into a series of bombings, disclosed lists of active officers thought to be willing to help stage a military coup. The Government denied the report.

M'Bow stays away as US quits Unesco

From Alain Tillier, Paris

Mr Amadou Mahtar M'Bow, Unesco's controversial Director-General, took himself off to North Yemen and so avoided meeting Mrs Jean Gerard, US Ambassador to the organization, when she delivered Washington's formal notice yesterday that the US was leaving Unesco at the end of the year.

Mrs Gerard announced that she was returning to Washington and would leave behind a six-man observer team to monitor hoped for reforms in Unesco (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization). Only these, and not the departure of Mr M'Bow, whose term runs to 1987, would persuade the United States to return, she said.

Unesco's late pleas that the reform programme was under way, claims that were supported yesterday by the host country, France, were rejected by Mrs Gerard. She said the United States was leaving "because Unesco has become, unfortunately, a champion of extreme statist philosophies which run counter to Western traditions and values and because it both costs too much and does not know how to manage itself wisely".

She added: "Had Unesco adopted concrete reforms, we might not now be leaving. But it did not and we must conclude – sadly and with regret – that it is not ready for such reforms".

The United States would not return until there was "improved management, a return to basic mandates with programmes and changes to protect minorities". Mrs Gerard said it was up to Congress to decide on the use of the $47 million (£40 million) US contribution

She made a final suggestion on how Unesco could save on overheads. The general conference, due for Sofia next autumn, should be held in Paris and so avoid the travelling, hotel and entertainment expenses of 700 Unesco staff.

Would the US be leaving the Unesco field to the Russians? "Many of the objectionable programmes were theirs. So let them pay for them".

Britain has asked for reforms in nine key areas if it is to stay in Unesco at the end of 1985.

Thais burn £85m haul of drugs

Bangkok. – Thailand yesterday destroyed more than 12 tons of Narcotics in one of the most expensive fires in the country's history (Neil Kelly writes).

The drugs, which included heroin, opium, and 10 tons of marijuana, were worth nearly £85 million in Western cities. Police had seized them in more than 900 separate raids, most of them in the past year.

In the past month, police using helicopters have raided secret marijuana plantations in five North-Eastern provinces, destroying more than 1,500 tons of marijuana growing in deep valleys difficult to reach except by helicopter. Police said no arrests had been made because the growers had fled before their arrival.

Note of caution on Cyprus deal

Athens – "Restrained optimism" for a Cyprus settlement was expressed by President Kyprianou of Cyprus, and Mr Andreas Papandreou, the Greek Prime Minister, after discussions with President Karamanlis in Athens yesterday (Mario Modiano writes).

Mr Kyprianou, who is meeting Mr Mr Rauf Denktas, the Turkish-Cypriot leader, in New York on January 17, told reporters: "There has been progress, but the Cyprus problem has not been solved."

Law Report December 21 1984 Court of Appeal

DHSS contraceptive notice is unlawful

Gillick v West Norfolk and Wisbech Area Health Authority and Another

Before Lord Justice Eveleigh, Lord Justice Fox and Lord Justice Parker

[Judgment delivered December 20]

A notice given by the Department of Health and Social Security to area health authorities in December 1980 in which it was stated that contraceptive and abortion advice and treatment might be provided for children under 16, at a doctor's clinical discretion and without parental knowledge and consent, was contrary to law.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment, allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Mrs Victoria Gillick, from the decision of Mr Justice Woolf who on July 26, 1983 (*The Times*, July 27, 1983, [1984] QB 581) dismissed her claim against the two defendants, the West Norfolk and Wisbech Area Health Authority and the Department of Health and Social Security, for declarations (i) as against both defendants, that the advice contained in Health Notice, HN (80) 44, was unlawful; and (ii) as against the area health authority, that no doctor or other professional person employed by them might give any contraceptive or abortion advice or treatment to any child below the age of 16 without the prior knowledge and consent of the child's parent or guardian.

In 1980 the DHSS issued to area health authorities a notice dealing with the organization and development of a family planning service.

It stated that family planning clinic sessions should be available to people irrespective of their age. It emphasized that attempts should always be made to persuade children under 16 who attended clinics to involve parents or guardians, and stated that it would be most unusual to provide contraceptive advice and treatment without parental consent, but that in exceptional cases it was for the doctor, exercising his clinical judgment, to decide whether contraceptive advice or treatment should be provided.

The plaintiff, who was then the mother of four girls under the age of 16, wrote to her local health authority seeking an assurance from them that no contraceptive advice or treatment would be given to any of her children while under 16 without her knowledge and consent. The area health authority refused to give such an assurance, expressing their intention of abiding by the advice contained in the notice.

Mr Justice Woolf held that the advice contained in the notice was not unlawful and that a doctor who followed that advice would not necessarily render himself liable to criminal proceedings. The plaintiff appealed.

Mr Gerard Wright, QC and Mr David Poole, QC, for the plaintiff; Mr John Laws for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE PARKER said that the plaintiff's purpose in bringing the action was to establish the extent of parental rights and duties in respect of girls under 16, for there was no suggestion that any of her own daughters, of which there were now five under 16, would be likely to need or seek contraceptive advice or treatment without her consent.

It was clear, however, that she had ample interest to justify her attempt to establish the extent of her rights and duties and to do so by way of action for a declaration rather than by way of judicial review.

It was clear that respectable and responsible people might hold different strong and sincere views as to the moral, religious or ethical questions arising out of the case but their Lordships were concerned only with the legal position, albeit that in the course of ascertaining it the court might resort to established public policy which itself might be based on some social, moral or other non-legal judgment.

There were in essence two matters to be investigated, namely (a) the extent of a parent's rights and duties with respect to the medical treatment of a girl under 16 and (b) the extent to which, if at all, the provision of the criminal law assisted in the determination of the extent of the parent's rights and duties in relation specifically to contraception or abortion advice and treatment.

Dealing first with (a), his Lordship considered the statutory background. Until the Family Law Reform Act 1969, by which the age of majority was reduced from 21 to 18, there was no statutory provision as to a minor's consent to surgical, medical or dental treatment. Section 8 provided that the consent of a minor aged 16 or over was as effective as if he were of full age.

Sections 85 and 86 of the Children Act 1975 appeared to recognize that the parents of a child had both rights and duties in respect of a child which they could not opt out of, and defined "legal custody" as "so much of the parental rights and duties as relate to the person of the child (including the place and manner in which his time is spent ...)".

On the face of it, if there was a right and duty to determine the place and manner in which a child's time was spent, such right or duty must cover the right and duty completely to control the child subject of course always to the intervention of the court.

Indeed there must be such a right from birth to a fixed age unless whenever, short of majority, a question arose it must be determined, in relation to a particular child and a particular matter, whether he or she was of sufficient understanding to make a responsible and reasonable decision.

That alternative appeared to be singularly unattractive and impracticable particularly in the context of medical treatment.

Finally, section 48 of the Education Act 1944 recognized the right of a parent to control the treatment provided at schools for any child up to the age of 19. Taken together, those statutory provisions supported the plaintiff's case.

His Lordship then considered the case law, which could be divided into two categories: (1) those dealing with medical treatment, such as *In re D (a Minor) (Wardship: Sterilization)* ([1976] Fam 185) and *In re P (a Minor)* ((1981) 80 LGR 301); and (2) those dealing with custody such as *R v Howes* ((1860) 3 E & E 332); *In re Agar-Ellis* ((1883) 24 ChD 317), *Hewer v Bryant* ([1970] 1 QB 357), *R v D* ([1984] 3 WLR 186 and *People v Edge* ([1943] IR 115).

So far as civil law was concerned his Lordship had not found anything in any case which supported the view that at least up to the age of discretion either a child itself or anyone dealing with the child could lawfully interfere with the parents' rights flowing from custody.

That such rights (and duties) existed could not be doubted. Nor could it be doubted that up to some age no one save the court was entitled to interfere. The only question to be determined was what that age was.

Under the common law it appeared that, in general, that age was the age of majority so far as outsiders were concerned, albeit that in habeas corpus proceedings some one who had reached the age of discretion might give a consent which would prevent a parent recovering custody and that for the purposes of a defence to a common law charge of kidnapping the consent of someone under the age of discretion might suffice.

His Lordship was of the opinion that the present law was that, save in so far as changed by statute or by such recognized exceptions as marriage or joining the armed forces, the age of majority prevailed. Indeed if it did not, the jurisdiction of the court which lasted till the age of majority, could be stultified, for decisions could be taken which might be against the interests of the child without the parents knowing and thus having the opportunity to resort to the court for its assistance.

His Lordship then considered the criminal law aspects under (b). Before Mr Justice Woolf, consideration of the question of the possible criminal liability of a doctor providing contraceptive advice and treatment to a girl under 16 was much canvassed, the plaintiff contending that a doctor who did so would be committing an offence under section 28 of the Sexual Offences Act 1956 or aiding and abetting an offence under section 6 of that Act.

Whether in an individual case a doctor who followed the guidance notes would commit a criminal offence of either kind had to depend on the circumstances.

However, the provisions already referred to and other provisions of the Act remained of importance, as providing a clear indication of public policy. Furthermore, some assistance was to be found in this connection from other sections and from both earlier and later statutory history.

His Lordship referred to the Offences against the Person Acts 1861 and 1875 and the Criminal Law Amendment Act 1885 before returning to the Sexual Offences Act 1956. Section 14 of the 1956 Act provided that a girl under 16 could not in law give any consent so as to prevent an act being an indecent assault under the section.

A normal preliminary to contraceptive advice and treatment was a vaginal examination and some contraceptive devices involved in their fitting that which would, without consent, prima facie be indecent assaults. It might be that a doctor, who without the consent of a woman examined her vagina for medical purposes, committed no indecent assault but there were clearly strong arguments the other way.

In his Lordship's view a doctor who, for example, examined a 10 year old, was at least at risk of prosecution unless he had the consent of a parent and that was so up to the age of 16, when, if the child consented, the consent was valid by statute and the offence ceased. Moreover it had always been the law that for a plain civil trespass to a child a parent had his own right to sue in certain circumstances.

The provisions of the criminal law all appeared to support the view which had already been expressed. It was true that prior to 1885 the consent of a girl under 16 would prevent intercourse with her being a crime, but since then girls under 16 had been consistently treated as being unable to give consent.

It was wholly incongruous, when the act of intercourse was criminal, when permitting it to take place on one's premises was criminal and when, if the girl were under 13, failing to report an act of intercourse to the police would up to 1967 have been criminal, that either the DHSS or the area health authority should provide facilities which would enable girls under 16 the more readily to commit such acts.

It was equally incongruous to assert that doctors had the right to accept the young, down, apparently, to any age, as patients, and to provide them with contraceptive advice and treatment without reference to their parents and even against their known wishes.

It might well be that it would be highly unlikely that, in the case of a girl aged, say 10, a doctor would do any such thing, but that was irrelevant. The question was simply whether a doctor was entitled to do so or whether in doing so he would infringe the parents' legal rights.

In the final analysis the position was as follows. It was clearly established that a parent or guardian had, as such, a parcel of rights in relation to children in his custody. By statute, such rights could, in general, be neither abandonded nor transferred.

Such rights included the right to control the manner in which and the place at which the child spent his time. Those rights would be enforced by the court subject to the right of the court to override the parental rights in the interests of the child.

There was no authority of any kind to suggest that anyone other than the court could interfere with the parents' rights otherwise than by resort to the courts, or pursuant to specific statutory powers or exceptions.

It was clearly recognized that there was some age below which a child was incapable as a matter of law from giving any valid consent or making any valid decision for itself in regard to its custody or upbringing. The authorities indicated that that age was 16 in the case of girls and 14 in the case of boys at all events for the purposes of habeas corpus.

So far as girls were concerned, the provisions of the criminal law showed that Parliament had taken the view that the consent of a girl under 16 in the matter of sexual intercourse was a nullity.

In the light of all that, his Lordship concluded that as a matter of law a girl under 16 could give no valid consent to anything in the areas under consideration which apart from consent would constitute an assault whether civil or criminal, and could impose no valid prohibition on a doctor seeking parental consent.

Further, any doctor who advised a girl under 16 as to contraceptive steps to be taken or afforded contraceptive advice or abortion treatment to such a girl without the knowledge and consent of her parents, save in emergency, infringed the legal rights of the parent or guardian. Save in emergency, the proper course was to seek parental consent or to apply to the court. The appeal should be allowed.

Lord Justice Fox and Lord Justice Eveleigh delivered concurring judgments.

The following declarations were accordingly granted: (1) that the notice issued by the DHSS in December 1980 setting out a revised form of section G of the Memorandum of Guidance issued in May 1974, was contrary to law; and (2) that no doctor or other professional person employed by the first defendant either in the Family Planning Service or otherwise might give any contraceptive and/or abortion advice and/or treatment to any child of the plaintiff below the age of 16 without the prior knowledge and consent of the child's parent or guardian save in cases of emergency or with the leave of the court.

Leave to appeal to the House of Lords was granted.

Solicitors: Ollard & Bentley, March; Treasury Solicitor.

Amendment to information alleged different misdoing

Simpson v Roberts

Before Lord Justice Robert Goff and Mr Justice McCullough

[Judgment delivered December 14]

Where a defective information pointed to an identifiable misdoing it could be cured by an amendment which left it still directed to the same misdoing, if need be coupled with an adjournment, provided that that could be done without injustice to the defendant.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held, allowing an appeal by Robert Edward Simpson, by way of case stated, against his conviction by Warley Justices of causing unnecessary suffering to a dog, contrary to section 1(1) of the Protection of Animals Act 1911. The information as laid had been defective, but the justices had allowed an application by the prosecutor, Chief Inspector Janice Lesley Roberts, to amend it, more than six months after the commission of the alleged offence but before a plea had been taken.

Mr James Badenoch for the defendant; Mr Frank Chapman for the prosecutor.

MR JUSTICE McCULLOUGH said that it was clear from *Hutchinson (Cinemas) Ltd v Tyson* ((1969) 134 JP 202, 207) that, despite the very wide words of section 123 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, there could be cases where an information was so fundamentally bad that it could not be cured by amendment, but that in many cases a deficient information could be made good by amendment or delivery of particulars.

The observation of Mr Justice Ashworth in *Garman v Plaice* ([1969] 1 WLR 19,23) that an information which did not disclose an offence was void *ab initio* was *obiter* and probably was intended to mean no more than that the defect could not be cured after conviction.

In his Lordship's judgment, the remarks of Lord Widgery in *Garfield v Maddocks* ([1974] QB 7, 15) and *R v Newcastle upon Tyne Justices, Ex parte John Bryce (Contractors) Ltd* ([1976] 1 WLR 517, 521) indicated the broad principle applicable to questions of this kind: an information which was good enough to enable a defendant to identify the misdoing alleged against him could be amended so long as it continued to allege the same misdoing.

A review of the relevant authorities had confirmed his Lordship's belief that Lord Widgery's words in *Garfield* were a statement of principle.

In this case the original wording of the information could hardly have been more confusing and did not disclose the misdoing of failing to feed a dog which the amendment specified. If it alleged any misdoing it was that of abandoning a dog, which was a different misdoing from failing to feed it. The amendment ought not therefore to have been allowed; the appeal would be allowed

Lord Justice Robert Goff agreed.

Solicitors: Boxall & Boxall for Bonser & Dawes, Oldbury; Mr I. S. Manson, Birmingham.

Residence can constitute close connection

Regina v Immigration Appeal Tribunal, Ex parte Zandfani

Periods of residence alone could be sufficient to constitute a close connection with the United-Kingdom within the meaning of paragraph 38 of the *Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules* (HC 394) which provided that a person seeking entry as a person of independent means had to demonstrate *inter alia*, a close connection with the United Kingdom.

Mr Justice Woolf so held on December 10 in the Queen's Bench Division when granting the applicant judicial review of the dismissal by the tribunal of his appeal against the adjudicator's dismissal of his appeal against the refusal of entry clearance. The applicant, for his adult life from 17 to 27 had been resident in the United Kingdom as a student and had funds of £250,000.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the applicant regarded this country as his home and all his friends were here. Residence of that sort was capable of amounting to a sufficient connection. Whether it did so or not was a matter for the tribunal and accordingly the matter would be remitted to the tribunal for reconsideration.

'Occupation' for Rent Act can be temporary

Naish v Curzon and Another

Where the owner of a dwelling-house occupied it from time to time before letting it he was entitled to recover possession of it from the tenants, under Case 11 of Schedule 15 to the Rent Act 1977, as a person who had "occupied the dwelling-house as his residence".

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Oliver and Lord Justice Purchas) on December 17 dismissed an appeal against an order of Judge McManus at Brighton County Court for possession of the premises.

LORD JUSTICE OLIVER said that the owner, who lived mainly in South Africa, purchased the house in 1971 and lived in it from time to time down to the date in 1980 when he let it to the appellant.

There was nothing in the Schedule which imposed any requirement of permanence in relation to the owner's occupation. It was a question of fact whether the house was occupied as a residence, and it was sufficient if the occupation as a residence was temporary or intermittent.

Corrections

In *Black King Shipping v Massie* (*The Times* December 17) in addition to the counsel listed, Mr Jonathan Sumption appeared for Wyang and Miss Geraldine Andrews for Mr Massie.

In *Allen & Hanburys Ltd v Generics (UK) Ltd* (*The Times* December 19) Mr Anthony Watson and Mr Guy Burkill, instructed by Bristows Cooke & Carpmael appeared for Allen & Hanburys; and Mr Nicholas Pumfrey and Mr Richard Hacon, instructed by S. J. Berwin & Co, for Generics.

THE ARTS

Dance

Moving hostility

No Go Zone
The Place

Two different forms of collaboration between choreographer and painter can be seen in the programme at The Place until tonight. The first is the usual kind where the artist provides a setting for the dance; the second strikes deeper.

Darshan Bhuller began dancing at Harehills School, Leeds, where dance is an obligatory subject. Now with London Contemporary Dance Theatre, he recently created *Hostilities* for 13 past and present Harehills pupils, aged from 12 to 16, in Harehills Youth Dance Theatre. It begins this programme.

The movement makes no apparent compromises for the dancers' age, and among a thoroughly skilled cast two who look youngest stand out as much for their speed and neatness as does the oldest-looking for his soaring jumps.

To a soundtrack of news bulletins and speeches from September 1939 until 1984, they perform dances of aggression and conciliation, wearing clothes with Russian or American insignia. Graham Dean's contribution to this work is a large three-part painting, *Striking Poses*, which forms the backdrop and underlines the theme.

For *No Go Zone*, however, which follows after a protracted interval during which paintings and films by him are on view in the foyer, Dean provides not only a setting of astroturf surrounded by rumpled wire netting, but visual motifs – the choreography often echoes his paintings – and a film of the four dancers that forms an interlude while they change from neat white costumes into trunks with phosphorescent paint on their bodies or faces.

Again the choreographic theme seems to be hostilities and perhaps pacification; after the anger of some movement comes a finale in which three men withdraw into a box with "black light" and the fourth sinks and vanishes in a pool of golden light.

The pounding beat of Dave Heath's music emphasizes the work's resentful force, but slow-motion passages and close-ups in the filmed section draw attention to the dancers' control and calmness. Bhuller is Indian, the other three dancers are black. That is not coincidental, as the choice of "White Christmas" for exit music makes ironically clear.

John Percival


Anja Jaenicke (left) as the tomboy "Matthias" with friends in *The Swing*

Cinema

Loving re-creation of a lost world

The Swing (PG)
Everyman (Dec 26)

A Man Like Eva (18)
Screen on the Hill (Jan 3)

Kings and Desperate Men (15)
Classic Oxford Street (Dec 28)

At the London Film Festival Percy Adlon's The Swing was promoted as "the *Fanny and Alexander* of 1984", which gives a fair idea of its ambitions but somewhat overestimates its accomplishment. I would not, however, wish my own intermittent boredom while watching this 133-minute chronicle to discourage others, since a great many of those who see it are wholly vulnerable to its charm.

The film is very faithfully adapted from *Die Schaukel*, an autobiographical novel by Annette Kolb, who was the subject of an early documentary by Adlon, based on interviews with the writer. The book was written by Kolb in 1934, when she was 64, and constituted random impressions of the Munich of her girlhood. She observed the dying aristocracy, the aspiring bourgeoisie and the flourishing art world of the city with an eye and wit sharpened by her own background in a family financially handicapped in the necessary struggle to keep up with the neighbours.

As presented in the film, Kolb's father, Herr Lautenschlag, has a distinguished but underpaid post as royal garden architect. His wife is a French lady who gives music lessons and has inherited somewhat precarious mental health from her own mother. Annette – who capriciously adopts boys' clothes and the name of Matthias – is the youngest of their four adventurous children. The disorganized and tempestuous home life of the Lautenschlags is in striking contrast to their neighbours, a snobbish family ruled with Prussian discipline by its head, Dr von Zwinger.

Other characters weave in and out of their lives: a ruthless gigolo, a homosexual prince, a kindly Jewish new-rich baroness, the director of the Opera, a greedy second-hand dealer. The impressions follow one another haphazardly: Christmas celebrations, a garden-architecture show in the great glass palace just beside the Lautenschlag house, a cycle outing, a trip to the Zwingers' country home, a royal visit, a musical recital, mother's piano lessons.

Each is painstakingly and beautifully staged, so that the film presents a series of loving re-creations of a lost picture-postcard world, with Annette's bright and abrasive reactions to it. Adlon's handicap is his fidelity to his original. Relying on the chronicle form, and conscientiously declining to impose a more positive structure, he is left with a film whose impetus periodically fails altogether. It nevertheless inspires the reflection that, in dealing with the chronicle style, the format of the television series can acquire a distinct aesthetic role. *Fanny and Alexander* and *Heimat* could only properly have existed in this manner; *The Swing* would almost certainly have been more satisfactory conceived in series form.

The title role in Adlon's earlier *Céleste*, which dealt with the last days of Proust and his relations with his devoted housekeeper, was played by Eva Mattes. In Radu Gabrea's A Man Like Eva she has a much more bizarre role to play, no less than that of the late Rainer Werner Fassbinder, who directed her in five films between 1972 and 1976. Astonishingly, with the aid of a little fattening up, a scruffy beard and the characteristic Fassbinder get-up of too-tight leather, slouch hat and large spectacles, she is a perfect miniaturized lookalike. The posture and movement are a faultless impersonation; only her over-communicative eyes and her voice break the illusion.

Fassbinder's whirlwind life and early death three years ago at 36 inevitably fascinate his contemporaries. He has already been the subject of two documentaries as well as innumerable articles and books. *Eva* is a *film à clé*, although real events and people are very freely interpreted.

The style is essentially pastiche of a Fassbinder film. Eva/Fassbinder is living and working with his commune of collaborators, in a large house-cum-studio where they are filming *La traviata*. Gudrun (the leading actress) is in love with Eva/Fassbinder who is in love with Walter (Werner Stocker) who is in love with Gudrun. Eva's adoring black lover, spurned and left out of this daisy-chain, commits suicide – the first of several victims of that urge to destruction of himself and others that goes with Eva's creative gifts. (In real life too Fassbinder's despairing lover killed himself, a year or so before the director's own death.)

As an interpretation of Fassbinder's complex character, with its combination of sensibility and grossness, sentimentality and cruelty, touching shyness and an incorrigible compulsion to show off, Gabrea's film is soft and superficial; but it is at least enjoyable viewing as exploitation melodrama, enlivened with good performances.

The young French-born, Canadian-raised, English-trained actor Alexis Kanner makes a polymath debut with his feature film Kings and Desperate Men, on which he was producer, writer, director and a principal player. It is a sharp, stylish, attractive contemporary thriller about a well-intentioned terrorist who kidnaps a group of hostages and takes over a private radio station, in protest at what he believes to be a miscarriage of justice.

The central conflict takes place in the radio station, between the terrorist – an academic and amateur – and the chat-show host, a drunken but highly professional ham. The terrorist is played by Kanner; the radio man, armed with histrionics and a dictionary of quotations, is Patrick McGoohan, taking full advantage of the legitimate chance to go well over the top. The script only slackens when it gets into more conventional areas involving the hero's strained relations with his wife.

David Robinson

Opera

Full of telling character

The Magic Flute
Grand, Leeds

I must say one's heart begins to sink when a programme book for *The Magic Flute* is sprinkled with quotations from Kant, Martin Buber, St Paul, Mao Tse-tung, and a study of Amerindian mythology.

But never mind. Graham Vick's new production for Opera North looks a lot more charming and immediate than it reads: the gobbets, if they were ever of any use, have been digested, and the staging has acquired neat visual delight and, as so often in Mr Vick's work, a simple, honest line in personal relationships.

It is from these, rather than from Russell Craig's beautifully inventive animals, sets and costumes, that the evening gains its consistency. Certainly it has no unity of time and place. Tamino and Pamina are vaguely in period dress, he in cream travelling clothes, she in a cobalt blue gown: presumably, we are to see them as the only human figures, beset by their mythologies, in some dream or after-death experience, though no such interpretation is forced.

The three Ladies, in purple, look like hybrids between Valkyries and Cretan princesses, while the Three Boys have stepped out from a prep school. Sarastro and his brothers are Capuchins, Monostatos and his servants a squad of Russian generals in scarlet coats.

No doubt there is some colour symbolism going on here, with white for purity, red for carnality and Papageno's yellow to suggest cowardice (this is indeed an unusually serious, grave-voiced clown as presented by Alan Watt, though all the more pleasurable for being without his customary jokiness). However, the main virtue of the single-colour costumes is that they look so well against the monochrome set. This is a veritable machine, and it has yet to be quite thoroughly oiled. Nevertheless, it already provides striking acting areas: ballustraded catwalks, that can be slung across the sky, and a subterranean space beneath a roof that slants up towards the audience, with a hole through which characters can enter and exit by rope.

It is probably enough for any production of *The Magic Flute* that it can provide a suitable home for the opera's events and persons, but Mr Vick goes further. His version is filled with telling character points, so that even Monostatos is granted interest and dignity, and the monster, here, a minotaur on the heels of Tamino-Theseus, is cunningly explained as a creature of Sarastro's. It helps a great deal that Andrew Porter's eminently singable and literate translation is used, with some pointed adaptation presumably of the producer's own: the performance has the atmosphere of a Shakespearian comedy.

It also helps that the production has been musically so skilfully prepared under the young German conductor Peter Hirsch, making his British début and leading a clear-toned, generally quick and elegant orchestral performance. I have never heard the counterpoint of the boys and ladies so confidently enunciated in the theatre, and the principals are all encouraged to give of their best. Laurence Dale, singing with forward strength, is a very human, likable Tamino; Jane Leslie Mackenzie an utterly simple and touching Pamina. Geoffrey Moses as Sarastro sings and acts with calm authority, and Philip Mills is excellent as this sly Monostatos.

But Mr Vick's most provocative twist is reserved for the end. Pamina rushes from Tamino; he breaks his magic flute and regains her. Together they come forward away from the temple towards an unknown future.

Paul Griffiths

Theatre

Inhumanity without escape

Saved
Royal Court

This production, by Danny Boyle, completes the Court's Bond anniversary season; and to see it immediately after *The Pope's Wedding*, with some of the company moving to equivalent parts in the second play, is to view a talented writer changing into one who has been seized by a vision. The earlier play fits logically enough into the Bond pattern, but it presents an easily-shared view of England. In *Saved* we move into Bond's personal territory in which English life becomes an image of hell.

I was scared by this piece when it first appeared in 1965, and it still scares me. Not so much the baby-stoning scene over which I and others made such a song and dance; but by the inescapable inhumanity of its whole environment.

Equally horrific is the sight of an alienated family sitting blank-faced round a television set and turning the volume up to drown the cries of an unwanted child. Or the dreadful, unstoppable family rows that break out over the smallest irritation: and the power of an old married couple to express loathing for each other within their shared pact of venomous silence.

Something has been working against them since birth. They want things for which they have no name. Most of all, perhaps, they want revenge; and, as the real culprit is out of reach, they turn and rend each other, adding to the bitterness of the scene through their very lack of a vocabulary of hatred. Their insults are a dismal catalogue of clichés; just as, when they discuss sex, it is in strings of commercial jokes.

Bond has described *Saved* as an optimistic play. I cannot see that myself, but this production puts in a heavy bid for that viewpoint in Peter-Hugo Daly's performance of Len, the cast-off lover who refuses to leave the house. Mr Daly starts on a hang-dog note, the image of a sexual failure who turns to doing little jobs around the house as a pathetic alternative; but, once the action gets into its horrific stride, he emerges with increasing strength as a helper who is going to be around no matter how often he is kicked.

Otherwise, the great strength of the show is its capacity to present a non-judgmental view of characters who lay themselves open to contemptuous moralizing. From Joanne Whalley's Pam, changing from an unfeeling mother into a brutally discarded victim, to the old married pair (June Watson and Tony Rohr, both performances of X-ray precision), you are left only with a sense of pity and anger for what has made them what they are.

Irving Wardle

Television

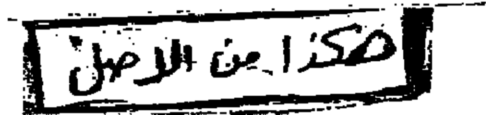
Emotional tyranny

The Loved Ones (*Forty Minutes*, BBC 2) provided yet another example of the emotional tyranny which animals can exert over human beings. The scene for this psychodrama was the Animal Medical Center in New York, a hospital where dogs, parrots and other of man's "best friends" are treated with more care and consideration than are often available to people in the National Health Service. As one veterinary surgeon explained, "It can be very easy to get emotionally involved with the patients". Whether these pets appreciate that care is another matter but, since they are loved rather than loving ones, perhaps that is not important.

Human emotions are in any case the key: in what can only be described as a psychoanalytic session, one anxious owner was taken through the trauma of her dog's urinary habits. And there are some people who need group therapy to adjust to the deaths of their pets. This lavish attention is not always so successful on the "patients" themselves: in one morbid sequence, a parrot died as it was being passed from hand to hand. Perhaps the financial cost of the treatment was preying on its mind.

A documentary such as this is a testament to the apparent inexhaustibility of human affections – all the more remarkable that they should be displayed in New York, where "caring relations" are not generally considered to be of paramount importance. But last night's programme was also a record of that strange and often symbiotic relationship which can be established between humans and animals. Here, for example, was to be seen the tearful companionship between one man and his turtle: it was not easy for either of them at the Center, especially when it was revealed that the turtle should be given dog food. The pain on the man's face confirmed that this was a true friendship – and proved also that, however adorable these little creatures are, people are far more interesting.

Peter Ackroyd



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Turning dishonesty into an art form

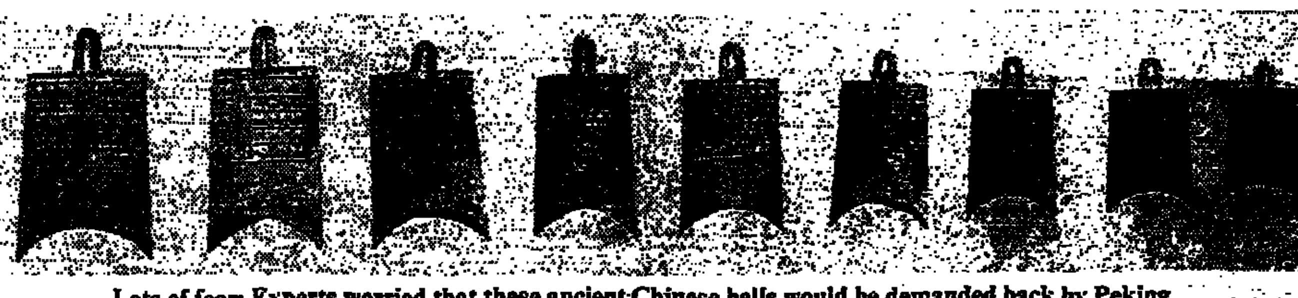
The art market is plagued by dishonest practices. The reason is *simple*. Most people don't understand art, know the difference between good, better and best or have the remotest idea about prices. The man in the street cannot distinguish between a £5 or a £5,000 drawing.

It is not a matter of education because no work of art has a cleary-defined value. The price paid is dictated by who is selling to whom. A furniture expert cannot value pictures, a silver expert cannot value furniture, and neither knows the value of pottery or glass.

With enormous sums of money thus resting on highly-specialized expertise, the opportunities for misrepresentation and misinformation are large and tempting. In Britain a long-standing battle by upright and honourable antique dealers to establish an honest market still fails to outlaw the manipulation of art auctions by dealers' rings.

Meanwhile, as revealed in today's news pages, the temptation to smuggle ancient Chinese pottery and bronzes, recovered from newly-discovered burial sites, offers monetary returns to cash-starved peasants which it would be humanly impossible to resist.

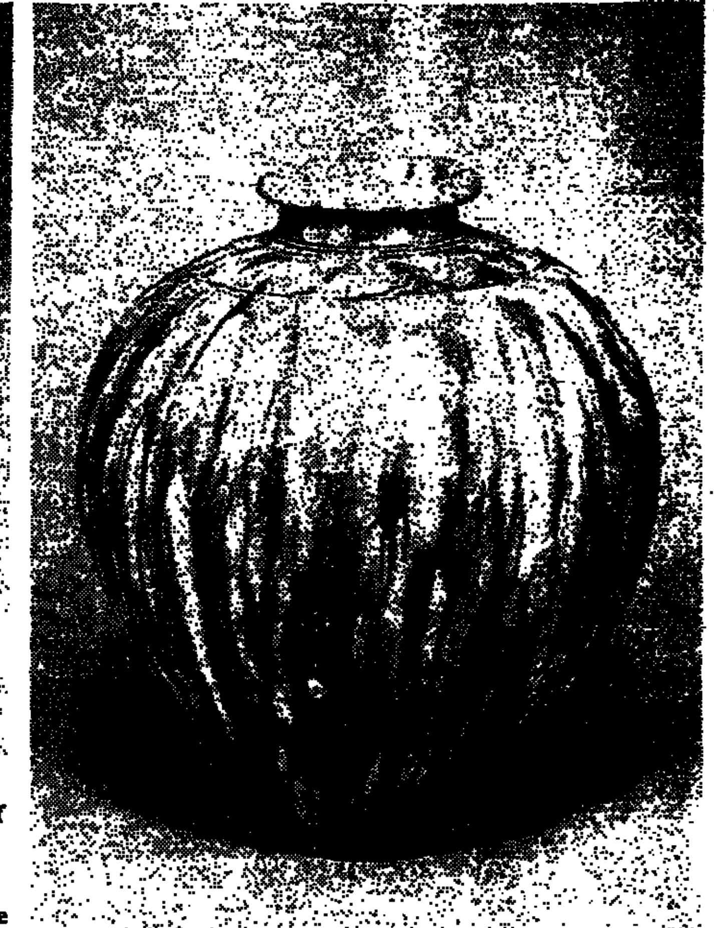
Geraldine Norman explains how this China trade began and is now flooding into our major auction houses.



Lots of fear: Experts worried that these ancient Chinese bells would be demanded back by Peking



Above: An unusually large and rare gilt bronze figure of Guanyin from the Tang Dynasty, sold by Sotheby's in New York for $47,300. The auctioneers point out the intricate carving



Above: A gilt bronze reliquary and cover from the Early Tang Dynasty, which sold for £73,440 at Christie's

Left: Also from the Tang Dynasty, a large Sancai-glazed pottery jar which made $484,000 at Sotheby's in New York last year

"If they read my name in your newspaper in Macao they will kill me", said the Chinese connoisseur pointing two fingers graphically at his temples. Art smuggling out of China is an explosive issue about which little is yet known. Connoisseurs east and west only talk about it reluctantly and demand a guarantee that they will remain anonymous.

It had been going on for about four years with most material coming out via Macao to Hong Kong. Extraordinary stories are told of the man who pioneered the new "China trade", a Macao resident who gave lodging to homeless refugees from China – who gave him things. He began dealing in Chinese coins but moved on into ancient pottery and began to organize his residents into regular suppliers.

At one time queues would form outside his door when a shipment was expected. He *could be relatively open* in his business since he had bought protection from the Macao police. The last year, however, has seen an upsurge of police harassment in Macao and he has moved to Hong Kong and retired from business. He has a 30-foot yacht and a summer house in Bangkok. He is said to have made over £10 million in four years, having started with a capital of only £1,000.

This unnamed pioneer of the trade was quickly followed by *others and there are now said to* be 40 or 50 dealers involved.

The following are major Chinese art works that are said to have come out of China within the last four years. Sotheby's and Christie's will not comment on their place of origin:

Sotheby's, New York, June 15, 1983:
Lot 157, glazed pottery goose-form tureen, Tang, $275,000
Lot 164, glazed pottery *mermaid-form ewer*, Tang, $115,500

Sotheby's, London, December 13, 1983:
Lot 10, three-handled archaic bronze vessel, c. 1,000 BC, £82,500

Christie's, London, December 14, 1983:
Lot 94, archaic bronze cauldron, Shang, £51,840

Sotheby's, London, December 11, 1984:
Lot 17, chime of nine archaic bronze bells and ten musical stones, Warring States, unsold at £30,000

❛ Gangsters have come into the trade organizing shipments to Hong Kong by air and speedboat ❜

The standard price for smuggling a suitcase of antiquities out of China is around £1,000 but the Communists are becoming tougher. They are said to have caught 50 people in Canton three months ago. "The ones who were shot all stole from museums", I was assured. "In China museums do not have security guards. It is easy."

A smattering of big-time gangsters are said to have recently come into the trade capable of organizing shipments to Hong Kong by air or speedboat. To justify the cost, these smugglers have to be much more selective than they used to be, concentrating only on items of high quality and value.

Sotheby's and Christie's finely illustrated catalogues are used as the basic reference books for selecting what ought to be valuable, but traders with untrained eyes often get it wrong and fakes are beginning to be made to deceive them. Replicas of ancient pottery and bronzes are already for sale in Government tourist shops up and down China. These are made to look old by *corroding* the surface with acid and rubbing in some mud for sale to the smugglers.

Western dealers have noticed that different types of objects have become suddenly available in quantity in London or New York auctions at different times, reflecting the development of new sources of supply. The first wave was of late Ming blue and white wares. Then came Tang pottery, followed by Han and Song and, most recently, bronzes including rare gilt-bronzes of the Tang dynasty over the last month.

The explanation is that they come from different burial sites. The Chinese have been burying their dead for several thousand years and up to around 1600 a supply of pottery accoutrements for the afterlife was buried with them. The great tombs of the Tang dynasty, with their pottery horses, camels, musicians and women are among the major tourist attractions of China today.

In the push to modernise *China new construction projects* are constantly unearthing forgotten tombs. These are supposed to be reported to the authorities and their contents removed to a local warehouse. Thefts from such warehouses, possibly assisted or condoned by local bureaucrats, are said to be the major source for smuggled goods.

When the business began four years ago most of the material coming out of China was sold to dealers in Hong Kong. Japanese dealers were soon alerted for there are many collectors of Chinese art in Japan. One or two of these took premises in Macao to get first sight of what was coming out. Others took to buying in Hong Kong and had only to book into a hotel for material to be brought to them. "Ninety-nine per cent of what one's shown is junk", one of them said.

The smugglers then started to get hold of Sotheby's and Christie's catalogues and to *realise that huge prices could be* paid. They started to ask such high prices for their goods that the Hong Kong dealers turned them away, whereupon the smugglers began to route them directly to Sotheby's and Christie's offices in Hong Kong. Both auctioneers say they have no way of knowing where the goods actually come from. "Most of it changes hands many times before it reaches us", was one comment.

The acceptance of smuggled *goods for sale in the west* is perfectly legal and so far there have been no formal representations about the matter from the Chinese governments. This situation could change and traceable items could perhaps be demanded back. A rare chime *of nine archaic* bronze bells and ten musical stones dating from the Warring States period was left unsold at Sotheby's last week at £30,000. There were fears that the Chinese government might make trouble over it.

How the ring works and why it survives



In October 1983 the President of the British Antique Dealers' Association, a Belgravia silver dealer called Brand Inglis, wrote a round robin to all of his 450 or so members. "Since taking office I have had to make certain enquiries about the extent to which an auction ring and subsequent "knockout" *operates in this country*", he wrote. "I have been absolutely appalled at some of the stories I have heard and it would appear that in some instances I may have to take some very definite and positive action."

Inglis reminded his members that rings were against the law as well as the Association's rules and ended up with the instruction that "any member who feels he is unable to conduct his business without the benefit of these activities should resign".

No one resigned. But an informed guesstimate provided by a member recently puts the proportion of BADA's members who treat rings as a normal part of their business at around 40 per cent.

When Inglis got no response *to his round robin, he took the* initiative and had "a quiet chat", as he put it, with three dealers. One of them is no longer a member of the association. Nothing will draw Inglis on whether the dealer resigned or was pushed. When asked, a look of acute distress comes over his face. "It's a very delicate business, you know", he points out. It is not unknown for a dealer to counter the suggestion that he should leave BADA with a threat to sue for defamation of character. The Association has a lively terror of writs.

It has been the "goodies" who have resigned so far. The President's letter followed the resignation of Richard Chester-Master, a respected Cirencester furniture dealer, in protest at the involvement of BADA members in the auction rings operating in his area.

Last week John Partridge followed him out of BADA. He is the grandest of the bunch, running the family firm of Partridge Fine Art in Bond Street. It has one gallery which he calls "our million dollar room" and it's not worth any client looking in there unless he's prepared to spend that kind of money.

It was Partridge's complaint over the sale of a walnut bookcase at a country auction last June that sparked a BADA enquiry which was reported in *The Times* two weeks ago. A number of dealers who attended *the sale were cleared of any* involvement in an aution ring.

The Times' article has brought the long-rumbling argument about the pros and cons of auction rings out into the open again and stirred passions. Not that the victims are standing up to shout about it. They rarely even realize they have been cheated. But the trade is fiercely arguing whether there should be a law against rings, whether and how the present law needs amendment and whether there's anything much to censure if it's broken.

A ring is an agreement between dealers not to bid against each other at an auction so that they can buy cheaply. They then hold a secondary auction or "knockout" and divide the proceeds between themselves. In standard ring terminology this is known as a "settlement". Dealers will tell you "I don't settle" or "I don't see anything much against settlement".

The dealers will usually be specialists in furniture, pictures, silver, carpets and so on, and have a better knowledge of prices in their field than the auctioneer. It is not unbeknown for the auctioneer to be a party to the ring himself.

To be effective the ring must include all the strongest bidders at a sale. When colleagues refuse to settle the ring is often prepared to bid prices up against them to quite uneconomic levels. They are occasionally landed with an unsaleably expensive piece but it is a small price to pay for freezing out the opposition. Dealers who consistently oppose the ring have been known to find their goods sabotaged by the time they come to pick them up or to find their car tyres slashed after leaving a sale.

There are specialist rings and rings that operate in different parts of the country. The Midlands and the border country are said to be particularly strongly organized. In Ireland, where there no legislation outlawing such practices, it is almost impossible for a dealer to buy at an auction without coming to an understanding with the local ring.

The smart London dealers who settle generally maintain contacts with the organizers of local rings and come in with the local ring when there is a country sale worth travelling to.

At major London sales there are generally so many foreign dealers and private collectors that a ring is almost impossible to operate except, perhaps, on a few special lots. But they operate regularly at lesser auctions in London and the country and in certain specialized areas. Carpets and jewel rings are notorious.

The effect of a ring is to defraud the vendor who has sent goods to the auction to be *sold* at their *full* value. *The* art and antiques market, however, is not a place where goods have very clearly defined values so it is debatable how seriously the impact of rings should be taken in the areas.

That they are illegal is not debatable. They were outlawed by the Auctions (Bidding Agreements) Act of 1927 as follows: "If a dealer agrees to give, or gives, or offers any gift or consideration to any other person as an inducement or reward for abstaining, or from having abstained, from bidding at a sale by auction . . . he shall be guilty of an offence under this Act . . ." A special provision was made to exclude from the net joint account bidding (dealers clubbing together to buy in partnership) provided a copy of the agreement was lodged with the auctioneer before the sale. This has caused special confusion, as we shall see.

There was no successful conviction under the act until 1981 and there have been only two little ones since. But there have been three significant rows in the postwar years.

The first was sparked by a *Sunday Times* coup in 1964 After the sale of the effects of Captain E G Spencer-Churchill at Northwick Park, Gloucestershire, a furniture knockout was held at the Swann Inn in Moreton-in-the-Marsh. The Sunday Times had a friend there with a microphone up his sleave connected to a pocket transmitter. The row rumbled and escalated for several weeks ending with the resignation of the president of BADA and 13 council members who had all had some involvement.

An interim government took over until the next council election a year later at which most of the dealers who had resigned were re-elected. One or two "goodies" then resigned but mostly it was business as usual.

The next row was in 1969 over a Duccio "Madonna bought in the country by the *picture ring at £2,700 and resold* to the National Gallery at £140,000. For a variety of technical reasons no conviction could be brought but Parliament took a hand to see that the impediments should be removed for the future and an ammended Auctions (Bidding Agreements) Act 1969 was passed.

In 1981 three leading international dealers, Agnew's of Bond Street, Thaw of New York and Artemis of Luxembourg (and London) were prosecuted for buying an Algardi bust at a country auction in a partnership that had not been disclosed to the auctioneer. They paid £165,000 and resold the bust to the Metropolitan Museum for £265,000. This was a test case of whether the law could distinguish between the respectable – as in this case – practice of buying in partnership, and in a ring.

A Bow Street magistrate found the three dealers not guilty and there was no appeal to a higher court. Since when the trade has been in a complete muddle over whether joint bidding agreements must be disclosed to auctioneers before a sale, as the 1927 Act appears to suggest, but as the Algardi case had seemed to refute.

In contrast it was small fry that were caught when the first successful prosecution was brought in 1981. Captain Peter Francis, who runs a family auctioneering firm in Carmarthen, became so incensed at the activities of the ring at his monthly sales that he called in the police.

The saleroom is directly across the road from the Ivy Bush Hotel, the smartest in town. The dealers were in the habit of crossing the road after the sale and holding their knockout in the bar. Since vendors who had come to see Aunt Agatha's whatnots sold also dropped in for a drink after the sale. Captain Francis was getting a lot of complaints. The police bugged the bar, dressed up a cop as a waiter and caught the dealers at it. They were taken to court, fined £500 each plus £1,000 costs and forbidden to attend auctions for six months.

The policeman who had masterminded it was Chief Inspector Donald Evans. Two years later he stopped at a crossroads on his way home to allow a line of cars to go by. Some of the cars had furniture strapped to the roof and he recognized one one two faces. He followed the convoy to a beach, where a knockout took place, and managed to summon *enough colleagues to the spot to* arrest the leaders before it had finished. The fines were again £500 each, with £300 costs.

An active dealer can make £1,000 a week or more out of the ring.

The Auctions (Bidding Agreements) Acts are not taken seriously. Those who settle are not considered crooks or even particularly dishonourable by their confrères, though there are some resolutely upright dealers who won't do it.

Some dealers argue that it should be left up to auctioneers to see that their vendors are not cheated and that the law should be changed in this direction. Most shrug and point out that you can't expect friends not to get together. If one method of *manipulating auction prices to* their advantage is ruled out, they'll just find another.

The unexpected conquest of Georgia

Today – Part Two of our thrilling complete novel from Mills and Bang: A Falkland Passion by Venetia Barnstraw!

(Story so far. Georgia has broken off her affair with Terry because he seems to like boats more than her. The final straw comes when he decides to sail round the world. To forget him, Georgia takes a job as secretary with Captain Dick Bolsover, supplies chief on the Falkland Islands. She and Dick are attracted to each other as Christmas draws near . . . now read on.)

Chapter Four

"I'd rather be living in Argentina
"Than marching around for Sergeant Tina!"

The soldiers' song in the street outside floated up to the window of the room in downtown Port Stanley where Captain Bolsover and Georgia were working on the final details of the Christmas catering.

"Who's Sergeant Tina, Dick?" said Georgia.

"What? Oh, that's Sergeant Duckworth."

"And why do they call him that?"

"Hard to say, really. Perhaps because the sergeant likes dressing up in frocks on his night off."

"We're in trouble, Georgie girl", said Bolsover briskly. "The Hercules bringing in our entire shipment of Christmas puddings has come down in the Atlantic. Nobody's hurt, but they've reported a Christmas *pudding slick two miles long*, looking just like a minefield.

moreover . . . Miles Kington

Question is: what do we do for dessert now?"

"I've got a super recipe for instant Christmas plum duff", said Georgia. "I just need a ton of flour and a couple of lemons."

"You're on!" said Dick. "By the way, don't forget that tomorrow night is the officers' Christmas party. You're my guest."

Chapter Five

Port Stanley was all decked for Christmas. They had strung one streamer across the main street. Georgia had gone window shopping and was wondering whether Dick Bolsover would like a hand grenade or some barbed wire cutters in his stocking.

Chapter Six

"Hark, the herald angels sing
"*White Christmas*, as arranged by Bing . . ." the soldiers sang. Dick Bolsover smiled at Georgia. "Having a good time, Georgia? Forgotten about Terry now?"

Georgia, emboldened by a glass of sparkling Argentine white wine, smiled back, though she couldn't help wondering how far dear Terry had got on his round-the-world trip.

"Come outside, Georgia", said Dick thickly. "There's something I have to ask you."

Outside, the rain was falling harder than ever. Georgia suddenly realized, horrified, that Dick had put *his arms* round her.

"I love you," said Dick hoarsely. "I want to make my own conquest of Georgia!"

She shrank away, aghast. How could she have felt warm towards this man? Would no *one rescue her? Suddenly, out of* nowhere, came a form a yellow oilies and green boots. It was, unbelievably, Terry. He dispatched Di Bolsover with one hook to the jaw and took Georgia in his arms.

"My darling", he said, "this is my first landfall on my voyage round the world and I fancy I have come just in time. I stopped for supplies and I found – you! Would you care to fill my extra berth?"

"I certainly would," said Georgia. "And while I'm at it, I'd like to rearrange the *furniture on your boat and get it* painted a nicer colour."

If Terry had taken the hint, he would have gone on without her, but he didn't and that's another story.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 527)

ACROSS
1 Split in three (6)
5 Interwine (6)
8 Powerful bird (3)
9 Muslim spirit (6)
10 Building extension (6)
11 Vend (4)
12 Better (8)
14 Indian court (6)
17 Felt hat (6)
19 Roughness (8)
22 Wild party (4)
24 Cloak (6)
25 Prophet (6)
26 Taro dish (3)
27 Post Tudor dynasty (6)
28 Coat with flour (6)

DOWN
2 Lift (5)
3 Admirer's group (3,4)
4 Crockery cupboard (7)
5 Head skin (5)
6 Solitary person (5)
7 Cockerel's crest (7)
13 Aural organ (3)
15 Parvenu (7)
16 Simple tune (3)
17 Neck gland (7)
18 Set apart (7)
20 Additional (5)
21 Awkward (5)
23 USSR prison service (5)

SOLUTION TO No 526
ACROSS: 8 Anticoagulant 9 Log 10 Scapa Flow 11 Video 13 Allowed 16 Spouses 19 Regal 22 Hatchback 24 Zip 25 Semi-permeable
DOWN: 1 Pavlov 2 Staged 3 Scissors 4 Malaya 5 Puma 6 Callow 7 Stewed 12 Imp 14 Lorikeet 15 EVA 16 Schuss 17 Optima 18 Starry 20 Gazebo 21 Lopped 23 Hope.

Godparents are still a blessing

As Prince Henry is baptized today, Barbara Toner finds out whether this popular tradition is still relevant or just a source of birthday treats

Prince Henry of Wales will be christened in St George's Chapel, Windsor, today. He will have six godparents – Prince Andrew, his uncle; Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones, his father's first cousin; Bryan Organ, a portrait painter; Lady Vestey, a family friend; Gerald Ward, a family friend; and Mrs William Bartholomew, the former Carolyn Pride, one of his mother's closest chums.

They will gather round the font with his parents and they will be told it is their duty to bring up the child to fight against evil and to follow Christ. They will be asked to say, on behalf of themselves and the Prince, whether they turn to Christ, repent of their sins and renounce evil. It would be an awful turn-up for the books if any of them said they wouldn't.

They won't disappoint, of course. Even atheist godparents cross their fingers behind their backs and utter the required responses. They do it for love of the parents and the child and because it is an honour to be asked.

Having promised to take a prominent part in the moral and spiritual welfare of the baby, however, many god*parents promptly turn their* backs and walk out of its life for ever.

This doesn't seem to have anything to do with their faith, or lack of it, but rather to a feeling that there is no significant role for them to play and certainly no real responsibility.

No one seriously expects godparents to cart other people's children off to church should the parents neglect to do so or to instruct them in the doctrine that led them to the christening in the first place.

But what should they do? What should royal godparents do? A Buckingham Palace spokesman remarked rather sniffily that the duties of royal godparents are no different from the duties of other godparents, which is the opposite of enlightening.

Prince Charles had eight, all of whom were royal or very closely connected and several of whom died almost immediately. The youngest godparent was Princess Margaret but two of them were great-grandmothers.

'They should provide help through prayers, example and *teaching*'

There is no record of any of them "doing" anything of great *significance in his life, except* Queen Mary, who wrote in her diary: "I have given the baby a silver-gilt cup and cover which George III gave to a godson in 1780, so I gave a present from my great-grandfather to my great-grandson 168 years later." There aren't many godparents who could write that.

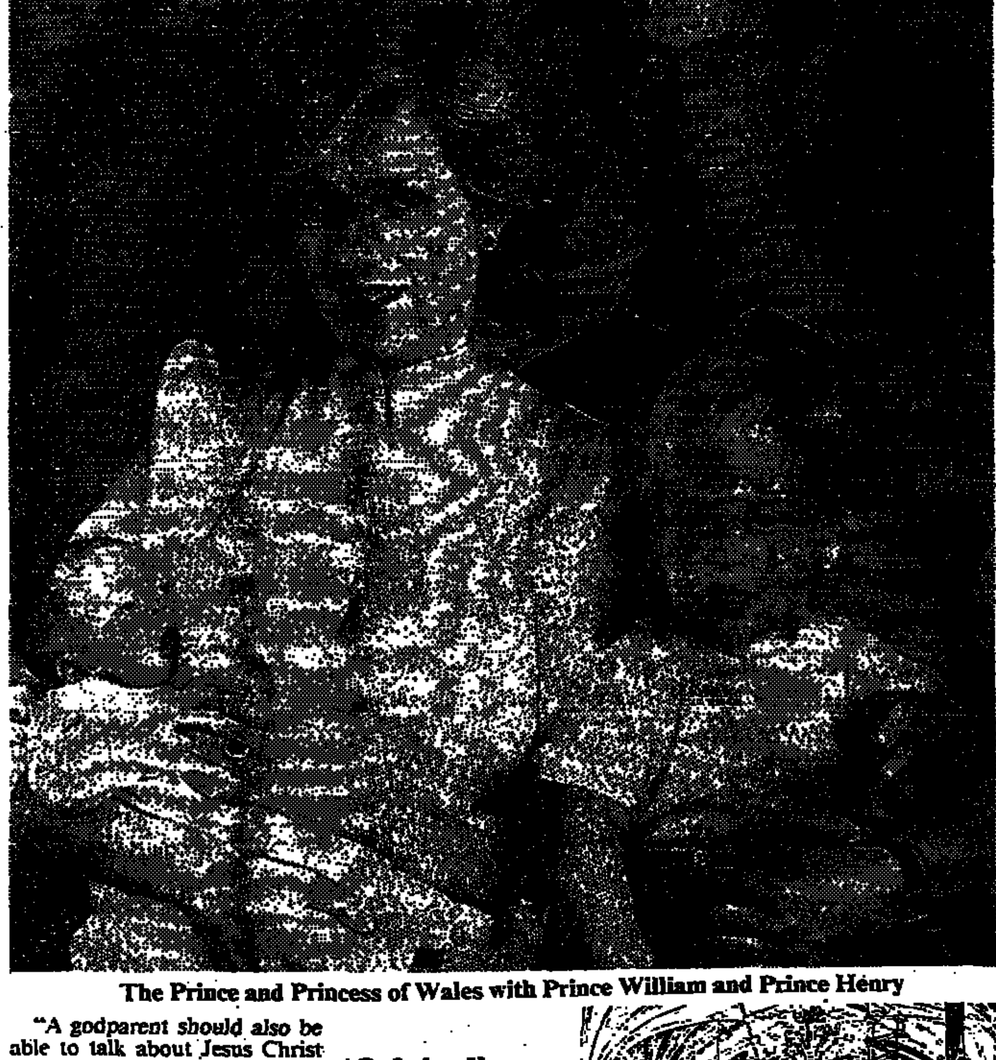
Godparents' original function was to vouch for the good character and sincerity of the person being received into the Church in the days when the Church was a secret society.

The function now ranges from the merely decorative, via the wonderfully sympathetic, to the economically sound. Very rich or foreign godparents are a useful channel for laundering money which will pay school fees.

The views of the churches seem only loosely connected to the views of their flocks. While all concerned agree that godparents should be decent people who will show an interest in the child, the flocks are inclined to favour a temporal interest over a spiritual one.

The Church of England asks that godparents, along with parents, *provide children with* help and encouragement through their prayers, their example and their teaching.

According to the Rev Richard Charters, vicar of St Stephen's, Rochester Row, who was among those attending at Prince William's christening, there is an ideal godparent: "It *should be an adult who is* detached but accessible, not someone the child identifies too closely with his parents, but someone who has remained in contact and who will be there when parents are the last people a child can turn to.



The Prince and Princess of Wales with Prince William and Prince Henry

"A godparent *should also be* able to talk about Jesus Christ without embarrassment because that will be necessary when the Sunday school platitudes stop working. Of course, I know many people choose Aunt Polly because she would be terribly hurt if they didn't."

Practising members of the *Church of England may well go* along with the ideal but when it comes to making a choice they will take into account a wide range of non-religious details, as well as Aunt Polly's claim.

Shaunagh and Thomas Henege have two small children who between them have nine godparents. This is to allow for the huge fall-out factor.

The Heneges have a clear idea of their responsibilities! "The first is to remember Christmas and birthdays and the second is to be around when the godchild is a teenager so that they can have a shoulder to cry on".

This is in line with the Church's view and indeed the Henege children are being brought up as the Church would have it. They say their prayers nightly and they attend church regularly.

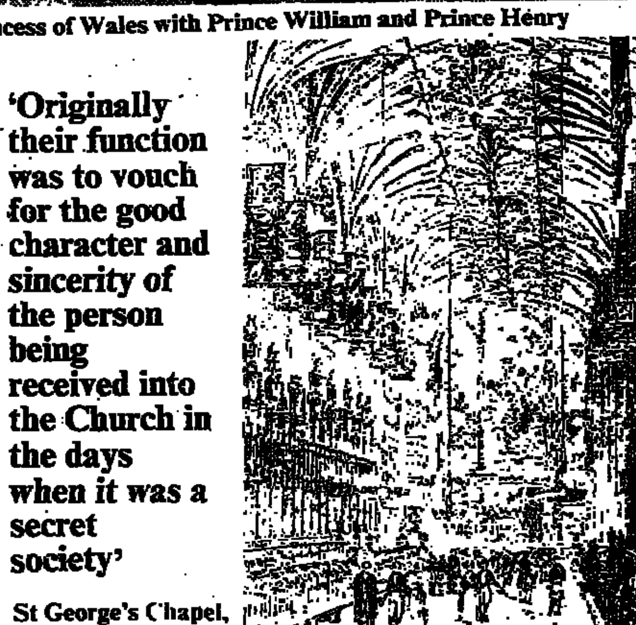
Shaunagh Henege does not, however, approve of relatives being godparents. "They are going to give presents anyway", she points out. "I think that each child should have two older and two younger because the older ones tend to die off, and I think at least one should live abroad, for holidays.

"It's fortuitous if the people you have a right to approach for favours when it comes to jobs or whatever.

"It is also lucky if they happen to be rich but I can't see any point in asking one of those middle-aged friends who has 35 others because yours will get overlooked".

Parents will perhaps inevitably be more pragmatic than their churches. The Catholic Church is reluctant to baptize the children of parents not practising their faith and it likes godparents to be practising Catholics or at least baptized Christians.

'Originally their function was to vouch for the good character and sincerity of the person being received into the Church in the days when it was a secret society'



St George's Chapel, Windsor, right

This is to avoid the baptism as an inoculation and the notion of "having children done", which makes Father Anthony Churchill, of the Catholic Information Office, shudder.

Both parents and godparents will be called on to renew the vows of their baptism and they will be instructed "to make it their constant care to bring the child up in the practice of the faith".

Father Churchill explains: "We now stress the role of the parents. What we actually want is for godparents to act in a supportive role to the parents."

Annie and Tom Chance do not exactly practise their faith though they go to Mass on Holy Days. They have, in spite of this, had their three daughters baptized, the younger two recently in a joint ceremony.

Annie finds it difficult to give their reasons for doing so: "Tradition, I suppose. They will make up their own minds eventually."

Every one of their daughters has two godparents. Of the six, most are Catholics, but one is a pagan. "We wanted him to do a covenant for a middle daughter's education and he was delighted to accept. Of course, we give him the money. But he is extremely rich which is very nice for Honor", says Annie.

"Our eldest daughter did terribly badly and doesn't ever hear from hers. She never ceases to point out our bad judgement."

Annie doesn't think godparents have much of a role in her children's life apart from showing a little interest: "I think that is as much as you can expect. It's rude to expect someone to be interested in their spiritual welfare."

The Methodists have sponsors as an option and they also stress the secondary nature of their role. It is simply supportive. But the Rev Trevor Rowe, general secretary of the Division of Ministries, concedes that in practice, the amount of support provided varies greatly.

He says: "Ideally, there should be a lot but sponsors can never take the place of actual parents." He gives pre-baptismal counselling to parents and he asks them whether they are having sponsors because they are decorative or because they genuinely want their support.

"Without wishing to sound too critical", he ventures, "I think it can be just a formality in the Church of England and that is something we don't want to inherit."

Caroline Blacker, daughter of Lord Soper, so a member of one of Britain's leading Nonconformist families, chose not to have sponsors because she and her husband Terence saw no point in them: "They don't do the bringing-up."

The Blackers are not themselves practising Methodists but they wanted their children to be christened so that when they come to make their own choice they will be doing so from inside rather than outside a faith. This personal view would not receive much staunch support from the Church.

Whether it's a formality or not, there is no denying that certain people make popular candidates.

These are not, as a rule, the most apparently worthy, but generally in their middle years, childless and materially successful.

The pagan godfather of the Chances' middle daughter likes to make *his* godchildren's dreams come true. He writes their names in a gold diary and lays down a bottle of expensive wine for every one of them on her birthday. He once hired an old French bus to take all 15 of them to the theatre, serving cocktails on the way.

Gill Stribling-Wright, a television producer in her late thirties, has seven godchildren and sees her role as "sort of keeping an eye on them". She is a churchgoer but doesn't necessarily see much of a religious nature to the job.

She says: "The younger children see me as a sort of fairy godmother who arrives with money and presents, which is nice, but I think later on I could be used as a sounding board for them or even a help to them, getting jobs and that sort of thing."

'It is unlikely Prince Henry will ask any of them for a job'

It is most unlikely that Prince Henry will go to any of his godparents for a job, though he may well go to them for advice and sympathy, especially to his *uncle, with whom he will have* the common bond of being a monarch's second son.

According to one avid royalty-watcher, his line-up of godparents is rather like any other, featuring as it does family and very rich friends. There is even the tiniest suggestion of flexibility as two have been involved in divorces.

But it is not to be imagined that any of them will forget Christmas and birthdays, because there is a single significant detail which distinguishes royal godparents from any others: the honour of being asked is simply too great to forget.

VOWS ANCIENT AND MODERN

The Church of England sets out the traditional duties of godfathers and godmothers in the Book of Common Prayer.

It has several versions but at a private baptism of infants it is as follows:

"Forasmuch as this child has promised by you his sureties to renounce the Devil and all his works, to believe in God, and to serve him; you must remember, that it is your parts and duties to see that this infant be taught, so soon as he shall be able to learn, what a solemn vow, promise and profession he hath made by you.

"And that he may know these things the better, you shall call upon him to hear sermons; and chiefly you shall provide, that he may learn the Creed, the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments, and all other things which a Christian ought to know and believe to his soul's health; and that this child may be virtuously brought up to lead a godly and a Christian life . . ."

The increasingly popular, modern version asks only that the child be helped and encouraged.

Parents and godparents are asked jointly: "Are you willing to give it to them by your prayers, by your example, and by your teaching?"

Since the Vatican Council of 1969 godparents at a Catholic baptism are addressed along with parents: "On your part, you must make it your constant care to bring him up in the practice of the faith. See that the divine life which God gives him is kept safe from the poison of sin, to grow always stronger in his heart.

"If your faith makes you ready to accept this responsibility, renew now the vows of your own baptism. Reject sin; profess your faith in Christ Jesus.

"This is the faith of the Church. This is the faith in which this child is about to be baptized."

The Methodist Handbook on Infant Baptism states: "It is the privilege and responsibility of the sponsors to support the parents in the Christian upbringing of the children; to help them carry out the promises and so to act as a link between the family and the larger family of the Church; and regularly to pray for the children."

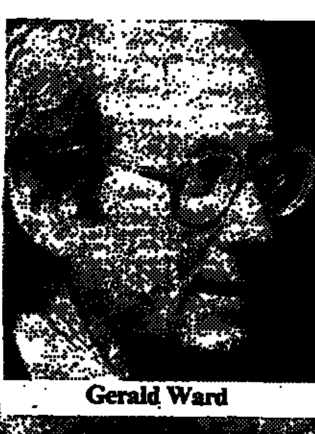
Their involvement in the ceremony is brief.

They are asked: "Will you, who have come to support these parents, help them in the Christian upbringing of this child?"

They are expected to reply: "With God's help we will."

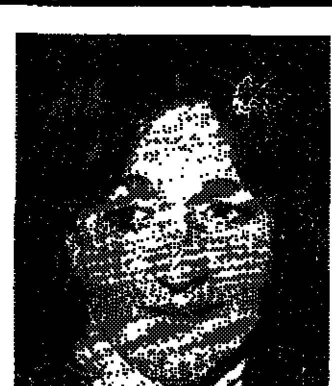


GUARDIANS FIT FOR A PRINCE



Gerald Ward

Prince Andrew



Mrs Bartholomew

Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones



Bryan Organ



Lady Vestey

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Party peace



Christmas is not always the time of boisterous high spirits and goodwill to all men as the popular image has us believe. For many, the contrast between their lives and the imagined good time that everybody else is having creates considerable tension.

Twenty years ago an American psychologist, Dr Richard Rahe, quantified this stress and discovered that the average family Christmas rated somewhere between taking out a mortgage and having a minor run-in with the police.

Dr Rahe's research shows that if a family Christmas is to be happy it needs planning, with particular thought being given to young children and elderly people who react badly to strange surroundings and changes in their eating and drinking habits.

As a general rule visits should not be too long; better to have a successful short stay than risk a prolonged family quarrel.

It is also better to be realistic about the number of people who can stay in any one house; camping in the dining room may be fun at bedtime on Christmas Eve, but lack of sound sleep is not a perfect recipe for a happy Christmas.

Alcohol as a remedy for family tension needs care: the host has to strike a delicate balance between breaking the ice and risking trouble when 20 assorted relatives, all suffering from hangovers, are exposed to each other's foibles.

Alcohol exaggerates characteristics; the benign become more relaxed with a couple of whiskies, but the same dose may cause aggression or weeping in the tense or unhappy.

Drinks before Christmas lunch are a particular problem. If, as so often happens, the turkey has not cooked as fast as expected, something to nibble with the gin and tonic will prevent hypoglycaemia – the big cut in blood sugar caused by alcohol. This can make some of the guests overemphatic and dogmatic.

Christmas lunch itself needs care. Most intensively reared turkeys are infected with salmonella and camphylobacteria (or both).

Tummy upsets will be avoided if the bird and all other uncooked meat is stored away from cooked foods.

Knives and other kitchen utensils used for preparing uncooked meat must not be used again without careful washing. Table surfaces in the kitchen must be scrubbed before prepared food is placed on them. Stuffing should be cooked separately, not inside the bird when its cooling effect prevents the thick breast meat *from cooking properly*. Neck stuffing is probably safe.



David Gower





John McEnroe

Left is best, hands down

A large number of top ball game players are left-handed, including John McEnroe, Jimmy Connors, David Gower and 30 per cent of leading American baseball players.

It was the late Professor Norman Geschwind, of Harvard, and Dr Peter Behan, a neurologist at Glasgow University, who first linked left-handedness with other conditions. Now, they have set up the Rodin Institute to study these links.

Left-handed people are more likely to be athletic, artistic (Rodin the sculpture was left-handed) and mathematical, but there are severe disadvantages.

Dr Behan has drawn attention to the close association between *left-handedness* (or having a left-handed mother) with epilepsy, congenital heart disease, severe migraine, allergic disorders, dyslexia (12 times more common in left-handed people), childhood stuttering, the hyperkinetic syndrome and autism – 40 per cent of autistic children have left-handed mothers.

These statistics, together with the anatomical differences noted in the brain of dyslexic patients, would seem to confirm that at least some if not most of the children who have been diagnosed as having dyslexia, autism and hyperkinetic syndrome are suffering from a neurological disease and not psychological damage.

Dr Behan has shown that these diseases, which predominantly affect the male, are related to testosterone levels in intra-uterine life, possibly through this hormone's effect on the thymus gland.

Deadly drinks

History teaches how two former American presidents, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, failed to survive the celebrations of the 50th Independence Day; and many a dignitary has collapsed at his retirement party.

It has always been assumed that the effect of excitement on the coronary arteries was to blame, but two Americans, Dr A Greenspan and Dr S F Schaal, have suggested in *Annals of Internal Medicine* that alcohol may contribute in some cases by causing an irregular heart rhythm.

Most, but not all, doctors teach that alcohol in small quantities is beneficial. It is a mild tranquilliser, and a quick nip of whisky or brandy may relieve angina.

But care should be taken by patients who have cardiac arrhythmias, an irregular action of the heart, particularly if they have previously noticed an association between taking alcohol and palpitations.

A trial staged by the Americans demonstrates the detrimental effect of alcohol in these patients. After 3ozs of 80 per cent proof whisky, a third of them developed a potentially serious ventricular tachycardia – an increase in heart beat.

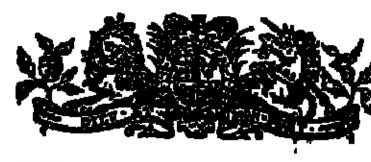
A fresh hearing for grommets



Grommets – small tubes through the eardrums used to treat glue ear – have only been restored to fashionable medicine in the past 20 years, but are now firmly established. This week's *British Medical Journal* has a comprehensive review, for both doctors and laymen, by Mr David East, of Scarborough.

Glue ear, secretory otitis media, occurs when middle ear fluid fails to *drain down* the Eustachian tube – connecting the ear to the back *of the throat* – and collects behind the eardrum, causing deafness, recurrent ear infection, earache and discharge. Grommets take over the Eustachian tube's drainage function, staying in place for six to 18 months before being pushed out. A second or third may be needed if good drainage has not been restored, and occasionally it is necessary to have a permanent system installed.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford



THE TIMES DIARY

Views on Hughes

Was Gavin Ewart disappointed not to be named Poet Laureate? He gave me an eloquent reply, entitling it *On Hearing First News about Ted Hughes (Laureate)*:

SO IT'S TED!
And all us other contenders can go to bed
–After our long vigil –
Larkin, Fuller, Enright, Ewart,
And sleep.
It's Ted who's top of the heap!

Now at last we can rest,
We weren't the most suitable,
Though we might be the best!
(Larkin?)
But did Ted acquiesce
For £97.10?

It's hard to imagine for hard Yorkshiremen.
They don't give owt for nowt.
Were there secret inducements
More potent than gold?
(Presence at the birth of royal corgis?)
I think we should be told!

I await Hughes' response – in verse, of course.

Old boycott

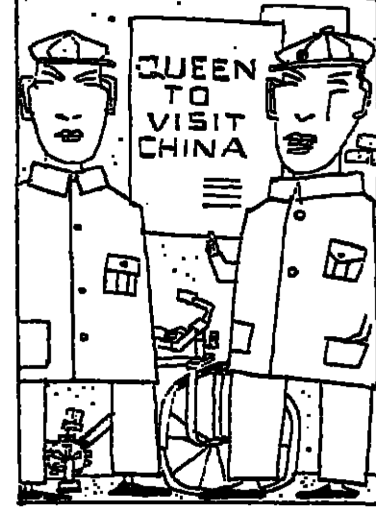
The boys of Eton College have *finally got their own back* on turncoat old boy George Orwell. They kept away in their droves when the National Theatre's touring production of Peter Bogdanov's anthology *Orwell's England* arrived at the school theatre this month. Headmaster Eric Anderson, embarrassed by the 200 empty seats at the show, attended by *Guardian* critic Michael Billington and academic Richard Hoggart, began asking what better thing his charges had found to occupy them that Saturday night. Writing in the school magazine, master William Rees is convinced that many were "watching, and deserving, *Dynasty* on television".

● After more than 300 sessions of the public enquiry, staff at the Nuclear Information Centre at Sizewell are sending out Christmas cards reading: "Psst! Let you into a little secret! We don't think it's about nuclear power at all. We think they're out to beat *The Mousetrap*."

Raising the roof

The Irish are not holding out much hope for poor Pia Zadora, who is soon to star in Ireland in *Lonely Lady*. The *Irish Times* records that during a performance of *The Diary of Anne Frank*, in which she played the title role, the audience found it of such "sublime awfulness" that when the Germans were searching Anne's family home, someone burst out, "She's in the attic."

BARRY FANTONI



'Then who was that we just waved goodbye to?'

Non-partisan

Not to be outdone by CND, Lady Olga Maitland rings to assure me that her Women and Families for Defence group is also the subject of sinister surveillance. The circumstantial evidence is overwhelming: phones constantly on the blink, drinks party invitations gone astray, first-class letters delivered late, parcels found lurking in the corners of sorting offices and packages arriving unwrapped. How times have changed. In the old days one merely blamed the Post Office.

Unfair

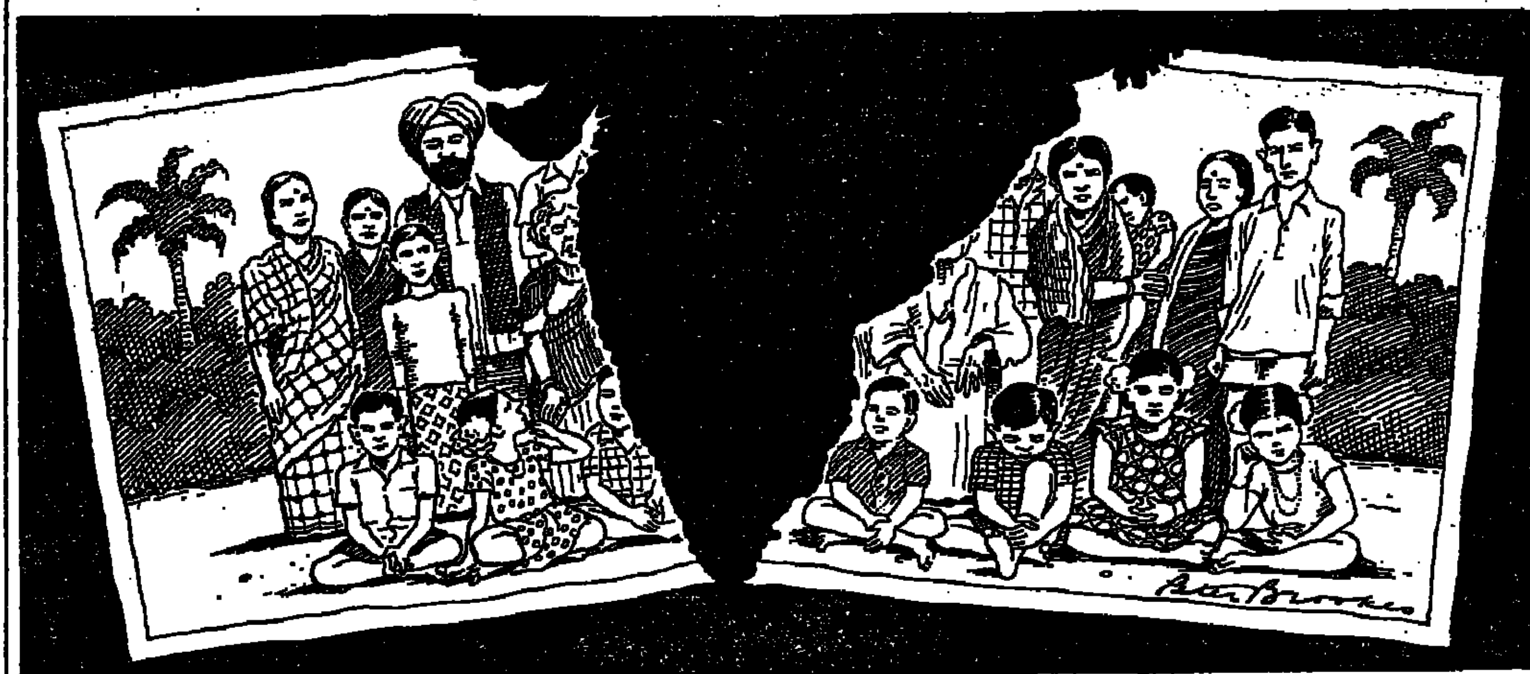
The Office of Fair Trading, which with the Post Office has set up the code of practice for dealing with complaints about the post, received a letter this week with no stamp. It duly paid 23p for postage due. Inside: a Christmas card wishing the OFT's code of practice men best wishes, from the Royal Mail Marketing Department.

Fluctuasian

Labour's membership may be dwindling nationally, but not in Ealing Southall. In the past three months membership there has soared from 700 to more than 2,000 as whole households – nay, whole streets – have been enlisted in three predominantly Asian wards. Labour has not suddenly discovered some vote-winning formula: the rise has to do with the reselection bid of sitting MP Syd Bidwell. For every 50 members a ward can send one more delegate to the all-important General Management Committee, and it seems that several Asian councillors have set their sights on Westminster. Bidwell is confident of staving off the challenge. "I have supporters in every mosque and temple," he confides.

PHS

Three days before the Indian election, novelist Anita Desai sees the Sikh-Hindu rift become every day more permanent



An unassuaged anguish, a festering anger

New Delhi

Winter has come to Delhi: a fine khaki-coloured dust has settled upon the city, and in pavement stalls cotton quilts are being sewn for the season's sales: in the parks gardeners are lovingly tending crysanthemums for the annual flower show. In the market places everywhere shops are being repaired and fresh coats of paint applied. A closer look will reveal that these shops have been recently burnt. The owners are almost invariably Sikh. They look both subdued and stoical. None is willing to say much. "It was fully insured", snaps the smart lady butcher in a fashionable South Delhi market. The priest of a destroyed temple says philosophically: "Who can explain what happened? Every man has within him greed, envy, lust and hate. When these erupt, such things happen".

Sikhs are not new to communal violence – they inflicted it upon Muslims in 1947 and Muslims inflicted it on them throughout their history. Communal hatred and violence blow through the country as regularly as dust storms: it is almost always the Muslims or the Harijans (lower castes) who are the victims. We are accustomed – even hardened – to seeing newspaper photographs of dazed survivors sitting by their destroyed homes, or the corpses of victims. What has shaken every Indian in this latest storm is the sight of the proud and prosperous Sikhs, creator of the green revolution in Punjab, known as some of the best soldiers in the Indian army, successful in every field from politics to carpentry, reduced to the state of beggars, waiting to be fed and clothed in relief camps.

A jewelled, silk-clad Sikh woman driving out to one of these camps with sacks of wheat and bundles of old clothes said: "We Sikhs are not used to this. Sikhs never beg. Now my son comes home from school and tells me other children say to him 'Sikh women will come to our homes and scrub our cooking pots for us'. But Sikh women have never gone out to work. These children are echoing what they have heard their parents say. This is how people are talking."

This humiliation is what subdues the Sikhs at the moment as well as the fear born of their new awareness that they are in a minority outside the Punjab. There have been wild rumours that the Sikhs plan to kill 33 Hindus for every murdered Sikh. The head priest of the Golden Temple in Amritsar has said: "I don't know about revenge but the Sikh religion does say that oppressors of Sikhs should be given a befitting reply and punished for their crime." Yet Punjab remained silent, in the grip of censorship and the army, but also because of the *shock at the fury of the mob* violence and the extent of the Sikh loss and degradation. The Hindu population too remained quiet, knowing nothing good can come of such humiliation and that the tables could turn.

This fear on the part of the Hindus in Punjab and the Sikhs outside has led to a curious social awkwardness: in mixed gatherings of people who had never given a thought to their religion, there are strained silences. No one can lightly makes jokes about Sikhs (a traditional butt for humour of the wily-Welshman and the parsimonious-Scotsman order) any more. Hindus are taken aback by the fierceness with which Sikhs speak about the violated sanctity of the Golden Temple; Sikhs are guarded in their speech when Hindus are near. A suspiciousness unknown before is at large.

When questioned, Hindus of Delhi's middle class claim a permanent breakdown in the relations between Sikhs and Hindus is unthinkable – the two communities have always celebrated festivals together, and intermarried – and that every effort at bridging the present gulf must be made. In the riot affected areas, however, the Hindu and Muslim neighbours of the murdered and looted Sikhs stand around sullenly watching government administrators and relief workers on their rounds. "They deserved what they got", they mutter, "these Sikhs had to be taught a lesson". There is neither remorse nor concern, only a smouldering sullenness. The difference in the attitudes of the upper and lower classes underlines another nasty home truth: that the gap between rich and poor is so enormous that the present situation will be difficult to maintain. The recent riots were a sample of what can be expected in the future.

In the slums the difference between the Hindus and Sikhs was not marked. In Trilokpuri, one of the worst affected areas, the people – both Hindus and Sikhs – worked as coolies or street vendors. The Sikhs occupied exactly the same tiny brick houses as their Hindu neighbours. Yet they gave the impression of being marginally better off because traditionally Sikhs live better – eat well and spend money. In Kalyanpuri, one of the poorest areas, the Sikhs did not even own brick houses. They had come from their villages to earn a living by making straw thatch for roofs and lived in mud huts. Yet many men from these families had gone to the Gulf to work and sent home transistor radios and tape-recorders. Surrounded by people for whom even a cooking pot is an object of envy, they were murdered and their houses razed to the ground. It was not envy or greed that led to the riots: it was the relentless brutalization of the poor.

All these slum dwellers had been forced out of their villages by poverty or caste-discrimination in search of a living in the city. In 1976, the late Sanjay Gandhi launched a slum clearance programme and had them dumped across the river in resettlement colonies. Without any means to support themselves in the wasteland, many were driven to crime and the "colonies" became centres for the brewing of illicit liquor, prostitution, drug-trafficking and gang warfare. It made up a Brechtian underworld of which the middle class living in their comfortable homes on the right side of the river preferred not to know. Their eyes were forced open and made to see it for what it was when the mobs stormed over the invisible barriers with cans of kerosene, and burnt and looted what they had imagined was inviolable. The communal riot became a class riot.

The Sikh lady taking old clothes and rice to the riot-hit areas said: "These riots have affected the rich more than the poor." She was clearly not referring to the wealthy landlords and industrialists whose farms and factories had been burnt down, and have been handsomely compensated. "The poor can always go to Punjab and start working as coolies there or sell vegetables or peanuts. But the rich have so much property and so many assets here – they can't just give them up and move. And how can we live in Punjab amongst the Jat Sikhs? We Delhi Sikhs are different from them."

One has only to visit some of the refugee camps still crowded with Sikhs from one of the worst scenes of the violence – Block 32 of Trilokpuri – to see the difficulties they face in returning to any semblance of normality. Most of those crowded, 10 to a room, in a new low-cost housing estate at Farash Bazaar, are women – the widows and daughters of murdered Sikhs. Almost every family here has lost a male relation, several have lost all. The women are still in a state of shock, or hysteria. It is impossible to talk to them of the future, they can only repeat the dirge for the dead.

After trying in vain to explain that they were offering interim relief money the relief workers retreat to their headquarters at the police station to consult the few articulate representatives of the refugee community and plot how the women can be rehabilitated. They are applying to the government for a new housing estate since the refugees refuse to return to the scene of the carnage. They also intend to set up small scale industries and handicraft centres where these women will be able to sew, embroider and knit and sell their goods. The women will first need training; largely illiterate, none has ever worked before. The offer from various firms and factories to employ a certain number has had to be turned down: the women are unwilling to leave the security of the community, use public transport and venture into alien surroundings. Other organizations, like the mobile crèche, have moved in to set up schools. Before tents, rugs, stationery or any equipment at all arrived on the scene, *the women are teaching* children, orally, the alphabet, numbers and multiplication tables.

While the government is preoccupied with bickering over the coming elections, Sikh leaders not under detention indulge in barbed ambiguities to the Sikh population and the press and government. With such leadership the two communities seem to have no option but to wait for the next spark – an accident or no more than a rumour – to set alight another human bonfire. As one Punjab Hindu said, "There is petrol and there is a lighted candle. One does not know when the two could come together." A Sikh woman asked "The future? I can't see the future. It is too dark to see the future."

David Watt

Jingle bombs, jingle bombs . . .

What is peace on earth? Or perhaps one should ask, what on earth is peace. The nearly simultaneous arrival of Christmas and Mr Gorbachov has prompted the question – and provided no satisfactory answer.

Most people instinctively want peace, as they always have – wonderful, uncomplicated, pristine peace with blue birds all over the shop and lions lying down with lambs. Because they have identified the direct nuclear clash between the superpowers as the most dramatic as well as the most dangerous form of conflict, they have pinned all their hopes of peace on the next round of arms control negotiations. That is why Mr Gorbachov's statements are being scanned with such desperate eagerness for any sign that may have a bearing on the arms talks in the New Year.

However Scrooge-like it may seem, we ought to distrust ourselves in this mood and distrust the Americans in it even more. In the US after four years in the depths of the cold war, the usual reaction has finally set in and a wild manic upswing of opinion is now under way. Mr Reagan succesfully smeared "detente" by association with the humiliations of the Carter era, but now the President is telling the American people and the world that detente is just round the corner if only Mr Gromyko will show a bit of flexibility when he meets George Shultz next month.

The immediate dangers of this state of mind are obvious. For one thing all the ballyhoo creates a tremendous pressure for a quick "fix" of some kind without too much worry about the long term. For another, there will be fearsome public reaction if (as is perfectly feasible) the arms negotiations lead to no immediate breakthrough.

The basic problem is that we still think in categories of "peace" and "war" that are really out of date. If the "great powers" are not actually fighting each other, we feel, they ought, logically speaking, to be "at peace". And if they are at peace they ought not to be preparing for war. And if they are, in fact, preparing for war they will almost certainly end by fighting one. Wars in which the "great powers" are not participants are sad or terrible: they even seem dangerous at times when they look like involving the superpowers. But they do not really damage our basic vision of a world that would be sufficiently safe and peaceful for us if only the US and the Soviet Union would cease the arms race.

The more one thinks about it, the more inadequate this picture becomes. If we believe in nuclear deterrence and recognize that technology, in nuclear weapons and rockets, as in everything else, will not *stand still, then some kind of* arms race – even if at a much lower cost and level – can hardly be avoided. That is not war, but it is hardly peace either.

Naturally there are some people – E. P. Thompson and President Reagan, for instance – who believe that it would be better if the world was rid of nuclear weapons altogether, even if the chances of conventional conflict were thereby increased. But the truth is that, thanks to the balance of terror, there has never been more than an infitesimal chance of a nuclear war even at the worst times in the last four years.

The real disadvantages of the frigidity (or bellicosity) of superpower relations have lain elsewhere – in the vast waste of resources on armaments, and in the hysteria whipped up on all sides, which has seriously undermined the cohesion of the western alliance and led to all sorts of stupid and destabilizing *distortions* of western policy towards the Third World.

The conclusion of all this is that the search for an old-fashioned peace is as fruitless and frustrating as the search for an old-fashioned Christmas. We cannot recreate a non-nuclear world or international system so fragmented that we can afford to ignore people starving or killing each other (by old-fashioned but effective methods) in far-off places, any more than we can recreate a world of Yule logs, sleighs and jolly ostlers. We must try to make peace in our own times and on our own terms.

Exactly what the shape of this peace might be I do not know, but the first task is to clear away three major illusions. First, it is no use expecting the two superpowers to reach a state of disarmed amity. There are too many real interests and perceived principles at stake. What we should be hoping and aiming for is greater understanding between them about the rules and limits of their relationship. This means constant political communication, less rhetoric, much greater transparency, and probably some broad, though implicit, agreement on spheres of influence.

This does not mean that arms control agreements are a worthless aim, but we should not put too much weight on them. They will be the fruit of a more relaxed relationship.

Secondly, it is no help to proclaim that the main disturber of peace in the contemporary world is injustice. The problems of minorities are at the root of much, if not most, conflict today; but one group's sense of injustice usually clashes with some other group's sense of its legitimate rights. Today's world is full of fighters whose temperament and political provenance encourage them to sharpen issues and harden principle rather than seek common interest and indulge in "appeasement" (in the literal sense) – that is, of gaining time and blurring hard edges. Mrs Thatcher is one of them. In other words let the peace-maker beware. He is in a trade which demands an unfashionable degree of amorality.

Finally, let nobody suppose that there is a quick way to produce a peaceful world. Peace is a continuous battle to keep conflict within bounds. One "solution" will always lead to another problem. If Britain abandoned Northern Ireland there would probably be a civil war; if the Soviet Union withdrew from Eastern Europe then ancient Balkan strifes would re-emerge; if Israel were thrown into the sea the Arabs would be at each others' throats; if South Africa became a free black state, its economy would very likely fall into disrepair, causing a different kind of hardship to its population.

These are not arguments for leaving such problems alone or for abandoning peace-making; they merely indicate that one ought to approach these matters in a cautious, realistic spirit, and take a long view. Sir Geoffrey Howe was quite right when he said the other day that relations with Russia were an endless process.

Peter Lennon meets Tony Harrison, an alien in two cultures

Taking people to poetry

On Boxing Day a couple of dozen kids from Tingley, Yorkshire, with a triad of Herods supplied by the National Theatre, will perform on BBC2 *The Big H*, Tony Harrison's first play for television. It is the story of Herod's horrid kiddicide, with a contrapuntal theme of the perpetual repression by the ruling classes of working-class self-expression. *The Herods start out as* school teachers despotically imposing "H" sounds on their unaspirating charges.

So even in jogging Yuletide rhyme, Tony Harrison does not abandon any of his poet's preoccupations with "the spectre of imposition, the spectre of tyranny", or with learning and language. *The Big H*, incidentally, ends happily. Although armed with A-bombs and airguns, Herod's schoolboy guards do not succeed in "jellibabifying" Jesus, and victory goes to the plebs who march off shedding aitches from 'alifax to 'ull; 'ong Kong to 'iroshima.

Harrison, who is 47, must be Britain's only full-time professional poet; he has not written prose, not even book reviews, since he gave up teaching 15 years ago. "I realized," he said, "that the whole risk, the whole enterprise of my life had to be invested in poetry." He must now be somewhere near the zenith of his career: Penguin have just published his acclaimed *Selected Poems*; the National Theatre will revive his *Passion Plays*, with the addition of a *Doomsday*, on January 19, and he is working on a full-scale opera for the New York Metropolitan.

He is a considerable linguist: with Latin and Greek, *he can translate* from French, German and Czech, and while teaching in Nigeria in the 1960s he learned to speak a couple of dialects. His poetry has a unique blend of the classical and vernacular.

The driving obsession of this scholarship boy from Leeds is with articulation in its personal and its class context. His father was both inarticulate and reticent, not necessarily a characteristic of the working class. One of his uncles had a stammer, the other was actually dumb. No poet could have prepared his ground more thoroughly. When he won a scholarship to a school "on the posh side of Leeds" and became proficient in Latin and Greek the alienation was intensified. "I felt alienated from my background and that is what makes me want to communicate with it," he says.

The idea of social mobility is to climb the ladder and kick it away, but a poet cannot do that. "Because your formative years acquiring speech are spent in the home," he said, "it is there you acquire your language." But he also feels alienated from the literary world; "a loner in modern poetry." His preoccupation is to do poetic justice to both alienations.

His linguistic talents have allowed him to make a name as a translator, rather transliterator, of the classics: his translations of the *The Oresteia*, of Molière's *Misanthrope* and Racine's *Phedra* were notable successes at the National. Harrison claims that his free translations do not distort the original: "I use a kind of translator's judo. It's not pugilistics. You don't batter the original into submission, you use the weight of its political assumptions". One of his judo throws landed *Phedra*, to general critical satisfaction: in colonial India, and *The Misanthrope* in revolutionary Paris of the late Sixties.

Harrison believes passionately that "the short and simple annals of the poor" in Britain are disgracefully scarce. In France, he agrees, they do things better: there a whole school of annalist historians, minister to the needs of insubstantial peasants who would otherwise leave not a wrack behind. Of his own ancestors, he says, "only the silence of the past comes to us". The poet, he says, should have a similiar mission to the historian of "rescuing from silence the class into which he was born, and to articulate for them certain moments of the past".

Murray Job



Harrison: combining the classical and the vernacular

But a poet has a peculiar difficulty in getting across his liberating messages: poetry is the plaything of the middle classes: "Literature", he says, "can be used to cement class boundaries. That is why I am against the cult of difficulty in modern writing, against *preciososity* which is more intended to catch the eye of the critic".

His device, he says, knowing the kind of people who are likely to pick up his poetry for literary gratification, is to "give them that gratification not shared by the majority". His sonnets, poems about his father, or a "historical" poem such as *National Trust*, are peppered with these rebukes.

These might appear too fine, refined and fragile messages to be heard above, for instance, the coarse cacophony from the Commons, but the poet can only do his best at a time when, Harrison says, "class hostilities have become more marked and the Word is under attack."

But in a new, long poem to be published soon by the *London Review of Books* we find him fighting not so much for life but for peace within the graveyard. It is an elegy written on his parents' cemetery which has become the target for the graffiti of disenchanted Leeds United supporters who aerosol the gravestones with obscenities.

The question the honest philistine might ask is: how could anyone be a professional poet in 1984? There are no mysterious corners left in the globe, every blade of grass has been nosed into by media technology, and it is not *la belle dame sans merci* who intimidates us but a potential cosmic horror too robust for rhymes. Where does the poet get his will to write?

"If I could separate my intelligence from my heart", Harrison said, "my intelligence receives very grim pictures of the world and has an enormous tendency to pessimism. It seems to me that the strong rhythms I employ are a way of preserving a momentum into optimism, even though the mind is registering nightmares.

"That rhythmic energy is a kind of life-support system that takes me through the fire, so the poet in me is not blasted by the intelligence it receives, is not destroyed by it."

Philip Howard

Great editors I didn't know

The question this morning, brothers and sisters, is what makes a good editor. The hard-nosed journo's answer is that the ideal editor is Guy the Gorilla, partly because he is better-looking than most editors, but mainly because he is dead, and stuffed, and safely in the Natural History Museum, where he can perform his ceremonial function of looking impressive without interfering with his professional journalists getting tomorrow's paper out. Another hard-nosed hack defined an editor as: a person employed on a newspaper whose business it is to separate the wheat from the chaff, and to see that the chaff is printed.

Great editors come in all shapes and sizes. It may be instructive, or even advantageous, to look for some common factor. Thomas Barnes, the first editor in the modern sense, was a robust intellectual and a very private man. He was a prolific writing editor, and his language was violent, if not offensive. Suggesting Cabinet changes: "The rubbish must be wheeled away to the last barrowful. Good God! Are we to have another downright fraud passed on the country?"

Barnes, the Great Unknown, detested the personality cult of vain journalists. After the thundering patriarch of journalism had edited *The Times* for 24 years, and become, according to the Lord Chancellor, the most powerful man in the country, his name was published in *his newspaper for the first time* to announce his death: "On the 7th inst., at his house in Soho-Square, Thomas Barnes, Esq., in the 56th year of his age." That was all.

Delane, Barnes's successor, could not have been more different. He was a hearty, sporting, sociable Irishman, by no means an intellectual. He was not a writing editor. We can identify only two or three leaders that he wrote himself during his 36 years in the chair. His strength lay in editing, cutting, strengthening, and adding a touch of ginger not only to the leaders but to every article that appeared in his paper. He once noted: "Not a column has been published in *The Times* which has not some of my handwriting in the margin."

Sir William Haley was an editor from the Barnes stable. An intrepid colleague once asked Haley whether he had had a good weekend. He replied: "Very. I read seven books, and reviewed four of them." Chesty young journalist brings his first leader to Haley: "The line I have taken, Sir, is . . .". "I don't mind what line you have taken, provided that you have written 700 words, and not a word more or less." When the Israeli ambassador sent him a crate of Israeli oranges at Christmas, he returned them at once by the same messenger; and the following Christmas, he wrote at the bottom of his Christmas card: "Send no more of your oranges."

Sir William Rees-Mogg was a Delane when it came to dining out, or "swelling" as Delane called it. Whatever drama was raging around the news desk, William caught the 5.10 pm to Somerset on a Friday night, and let his professionals get on with it. He was a Barnes of leader-writing editors, though with a more whimsical and eccentric touch than Barnes.

Harold Ross, the brilliant editor of *The New Yorker*, was clearly as dotty as a painting by Seurat. Introverted, as private as Barnes, prickly, a stickler for accuracy with a mania for facts and detail, he covered the margins of his contributors' copy with such designations as "unclear", "repetition", "cliché", and "ellipsis". *He hated going to the* theatre because people recognized him and came up to him, and even talked to him; but he kept on going, in case one day he saw a play he liked.

These editors were clearly a very mixed bunch. The only thing they had in common was that they were as good as their last issues, in the same unforgiving way that a journalist is as good as his or her last piece. They were great editors because they had an instinct for good pieces, and published them. In the symbiotic relationship between an editor and the most ephemeral of publications, each side makes the other great.

(That's enough about editors, Ed.)

TIMES PAST THE TIMES
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TARGET FOR 1985

The parliamentary turmoil surrounding the Government in the weeks before the Christmas adjournment is not an automatic guide to its standing in the country. Looking at the public opinion polls, and at the perfectly adequate result of the Southgate by-election, Mrs Thatcher and her colleagues may feel that they need have no cause for great worry. They will recollect that in the mid-term of the last Parliament they were losing seats to the Alliance parties, and that the Government's economic policies were then under heavy public attack (inside the Cabinet as well as out of it) from that section of the Conservative Party then described as "Wets" who wanted more public spending (inflation notwithstanding) in the hope that it would produce more jobs.

Yet despite these difficulties, Mrs Thatcher went on to a triumphant victory in the election of 1983, which the Prime Minister may think cuts down to size the most recent attacks from those Tories who are again demanding expansion through public spending as the remedy for unemployment. What has been done once, she may be tempted to think, can be done again.

Besides, looking across the House of Commons it is impossible to see a credible alternative government among the Opposition parties. On the surface, Labour in parliament has lately presented a more moderate image, provided one can forget the scary Scargillism which convulsed its party conference less than three months ago. But all the evidence is that the public does not want the goods that Labour has on its counter, and wants still less those barely half concealed beneath the counter which would forcibly be pushed on the public if Labour were in power.

All this, then is comfort for Mrs Thatcher. But when comfort is duly taken she would be wise to pay heed to dangers in the present situation which were not present in the comparable troubles of the last Parliament. Then the overriding enemy was inflation and most people understood that this was so. When Mrs Thatcher said there was no alternative to her policies they agreed and supported her. They were prepared to pay the price to defeat it. Now inflation is down to under five per cent, which is still far too high, but is low enough to make it seem a less virulent enemy. The cause in which the Government still needs to maintain its discipline over public spending is just as real but is less clear cut, and precisely because this is so, the Government needs to give much more attention to carrying public opinion with it.

Instead, it has allowed its energies to be deflected into unnecessary battles in the House of Commons over what are essentially secondary issues instead of concentrating on carrying public opinion along with a clear and co-ordinated strategy for disciplining public spending, beating inflation and creating the circumstances appropriate to a productive and flourishing economy. In two parliamentary sessions successively, it has brought about a situation in which Mr Patrick Jenkin has been a parliamentary Aunt Sally, first on rate-capping, now on GLC abolition and over the spending of money raised by local authorities from council house sales.

All this has come about because the Government went into an early election in 1983 without having prepared a proper strategy. Unable to solve its rates problem and rightly concerned with the inflationary level of local government spending, it hastily cobbled policies together which do not cohere and, certainly in respect of GLC abolition, have alienated too much opinion.

The 1984-85 Session is the key Session of this Parliament, in which the Government should have been able to identify to the public the essential achievements it hoped to put before them at the next election, the core of which must surely be a coherent reappraisal of priorities for social spending. That is vital, both to put resources where the real needs are and also to exert the discipline over public spending that is essential if inflation is to be conquered. Now, though the Fowler review will be ready in the coming year, the necessary legislation is unlikely until later in 1986, which means carrying controversy dangerously close to the next election without anything positive to show for it.

At the heart of the problem is the government's failure to act as a team thinking out a concerted strategy. Its approach is cellular; hence the ill-planned advance and the forced retreat of Sir Keith Joseph over student grants. Too much policy is made on the trot, or by Mrs Thatcher gathered together with two or three as problems crop up. There is too little forward thinking and, so far as the economy is concerned, too much weight on the tax-cutting strategy (good in itself) of a Chancellor who is as bad a communicator with colleagues as he is with the country.

So far this has been a stultified parliament, but it is not too late for the government to mend its ways if it is willing to learn the right lessons.

THE MESSAGE OF THE POUND

The Treasury has eschewed committing itself to any target level for sterling on the foreign exchanges, if only because pursuing policy objectives on both sterling and the money supply at the same time is liable to make both ineffective. Money took the higher priority in the battle against inflation. But that does not stop the recent precipitate fall in the pound's value being a signal of considerable and almost wholly depressing significance. Yesterday the pound touched new all-time lows against the average of the currencies of countries we trade with. That automatically cuts Britain's standard of living, increases our relative inflation rate, puts off the prospect of lower interest rates and, perhaps worst of all, tends to undermine the aura of confidence so vital to our continued economic recovery.

These damaging effects are not so dramatic as they were a few years ago, partly due to changing trade patterns and dollar-denominated North Sea oil, partly due to unconscious changes in attitudes brought by the Government's affected indifference to the fate of the pound. The supposed offsetting benefits to industry beloved of a generation of devaluationists have likewise faded. Firms most sensitive to the exchange rate closed in great numbers when the sterling index rose to a third above today's level, double today's rate against the dollar, in 1981.

The fall, more insistent as 1984 progressed, can be explained in three levels of perspective, each more chastening than the one before.

The threat of further oil prices cuts, focused on the Opec meeting in Geneva, triggered this week's run. The markets had already been made unsympathetic by a sheaf of alarming economic statistics, many of them distorted, for different reasons, in the wrong direction for sterling. Few of those selling our currency seriously doubt that the Government's overall economic strategy is broadly on course, but there are temporary worries about monetary growth, the trend of wage costs and trade.

Runs on currencies, however, presuppose a background of weakness. The Treasury and the Bank of England have made it so clear that they will cut domestic interest rates to gain the benefits of past restraint as soon and as often as the exchange markets permit that speculators are hardly likely to choose sterling as an alternative to the dollar if they suspect the United States currency is about to lose its recent overwhelming attractions. Moreover, the subtle changes in policy since Mr Nigel Lawson became Chancellor have not been lost on markets. They see ministers quite happy, provided the money supply growth ends within its target ceilings, even though the output it needs to finance has been pushed well below forecast by the coal strike. The opportunity to make further inroads into inflation has been passed by.

The enduring dispute in the mines also confirms the indefinable suspicions of many that the British disease is still liable to break out at any moment and, despite Government creating the right conditions for steady growth, the economy still lacks any sign of the dynamism so obvious in the United States and now reasserting itself in Japan. Productivity growth, so spectacular in the phase when British industry was rationalising itself and shedding labour has failed to sustain its momentum during the past few months.

Employees may be realistic, but are they fully engaged in the drive to create wealth? Managers are more efficient, but are they committed to the expansion and the new products needed to create new jobs, instead of relying on overtime in case recovery does not last? There is much to be done before the British economy enters that virtuous circle of steadily rising currency and real incomes that so fired the Conservatives' shadow Treasury team before they took on the task.

RESPECT FOR A 'DWINDLING RIGHT'

When a child of parents of certain religious denominations falls ill, the parents may refuse to allow it to be given necessary blood transfusions because their religion prohibits it. The doctors then sometimes have the child made a ward of court just till the surgery is completed. It is a faintly absurd but effective and public way of enabling doctors to overrule the parents while paying proper respect to their legal right in general to give or refuse consent. Conscience is saved; the legal forms are saved; the child is saved. The situation that the Court of Appeal ruled on yesterday in the case of Mrs Gillick is distinct in one important respect: the doctor who judges that it is in the best interests of a child under 16 to provide her with contraceptive assistance without the consent of her parents overrules them privately, without his judgement being tested by any court.

The statute and case law covering this special situation have been considered unclear, and many doctors have seen it as their duty to give help if they are convinced that the girl is unlikely to abandon sexual activity with all its dangers, and that her relations with her parents are such that they would refuse consent, or perhaps react by rejecting her if they found out. Without the assurance of secrecy, girls would be less likely to seek help. In 1980 the Department of Health issued guidelines sanctioning this in the "most unusual" event of the girl steadfastly resisting all urgings to bring her parents in.

There was no compulsion of doctors to prescribe against their own judgement, but Mrs Gillick felt that the guidelines infringed her rights as a parent and sought a guarantee from her health authority that they would not be invoked in respect of her own daughters. The health authority refused, and yesterday all three judges in the Court of Appeal found that it had been wrong to do so in her case.

The three judges were unanimous in finding that there was no basis in law for the idea that parental rights could be disregarded without the intervention of a court. They all stressed that it was desirable in general to entrench parental rights firmly, and undesirable for them to be overruled without due process.

Lord Justice Parker referred rather wistfully to one of Lord Denning's clarion calls for judicial creativity: referring to a case decided in Victorian days when a father's authority was absolute, he declined to accept "a view so much out of date": the authority of a parent over a minor was "a dwindling right which the courts will hesitate to enforce against the wishes of the child, and the more so the older he is". The judge added: "This it clearly is," before going on to reject Lord Denning's temptation. But a minor seeking contraceptive advice is clearly not likely to be acting with straight-forward childish irresponsibility, and her assessment of her parents' views may be an accurate one.

It may be the law, but is it right? The argument has often been over-stated on both sides. Suggestions that contraception is something inaccessible without a doctor's help are as emotive as claims that this particular departmental circular is to blame for a growth in teenage promiscuity which is in any case not unambiguously demonstrable, in the period in question. Either way, the law might precipitate tragedy in hard cases. But in most cases the parents will know the child better than the doctor does, and be more intensely concerned to protect its interests.

But the effect of yesterday's decision is to deny doctors the option of exercising a discretion legally in cases where a child may blunder into disaster acting without advice for fear that the doctor will tell. Some doctors are no doubt over-confident in applying their own moral prejudices in cases where parents legitimately hold opposite views; many doctors are scrupulous in avoiding doing so. The question is whether we trust doctors enough to exercise that kind of discretion. As the judges say, that is for Parliament to decide. Until Parliament has decided, doctors should beware of taking matters into their own hands.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Doctors unwilling to take prescription

From Mr Maurice Sutton

Sir, Dr Marks says (December 17) that limiting the number of drugs available on NHS prescriptions would result in patients no longer being able to obtain those drugs which may be best for them, under the NHS. These are emotive words aimed at influencing the public who are ignorant of the facts.

In *Mims*, the compendium of drugs that doctors may prescribe, there are 61 sedatives listed. They vary greatly in price, but all have the same action. Any one could be replaced by any of the others.

If a drug was inferior, market forces would ensure that it would soon cease to be manufactured. The decision on which drug to prescribe is now often made by a random selection of a name on a page of *Mims*, perhaps influenced subconsciously by the most recent bout of hospitality provided by a pharmaceutical firm.

The doctor is a custodian of the public purse and those of us who take our responsibilities seriously must welcome the minister's proposals.

Yours faithfully,
MAURICE SUTTON, Director,
Department of Radiotherapy & Oncology,
North Middlesex Hospital,
Edmonton, N18.
December 17.

From Dr D. T. Lipman

Sir, Your editorial, "Prescribing propaganda" (December 13) is not only offensive in tone, it totally fails to identify the reason why Mr Fowler's proposals have evoked such a strong adverse reaction from the medical profession (which shows few of the differences of opinion which divided its response to Mr Clark's deputising proposals).

Firstly, whatever the merits or demerits of individual drugs on the forbidden list, it represents a fundamental and, I believe, morally wrong change in the NHS to allow drugs to be prescribed privately, but not on NHS prescription. Many patients will simply not be able to afford to pay and will have a change of medication forced upon them which will not be forced upon the better-off.

Secondly, the list was announced without consultation with any representatives of the medical profession, which is already attempting to rationalize its prescribing habits. This process is being encouraged by the success of vocational training for general practice and by the activities of the Royal College of General Practitioners. Most younger doctors recognize the need for responsible prescribing, for medical and economic reasons, and, like myself, deplore the excesses of recent years. This does not mean we accept the Government's arbitrary and ill thought-out proposal.

My third point is that the list of allowed drugs does not adequately cover the genuine needs of patients. I could give many examples of preparations which have specific useful properties, which it is proposed should not be available on the NHS, and which are not adequately substituted by the allowed list. Unfortunately there is not enough room on your letters page to cover them all.

I do not pretend to know the answers to all the therapeutic problems with which GPs are faced every day. Patients' response to drugs is not uniform or invariably predictable. There are allergies, idiosyncratic responses, psychological and social factors, all of which should influence prescribing. Some patients only respond to unusual or rarely prescribed drugs.

Mr Fowler shows colossal arrogance in seeking, at a stroke, to rationalize prescribing without fully considering these factors and without apparently recognizing the effort and thought many doctors already apply to these problems.

Yours faithfully,
D. T. LIPMAN,
44 Lodore Road,
High West Jesmond,
Newcastle upon Tyne.
December 13.

From Dr J. W. Bennett

Sir, Your leading article of December 13 requires comment. The article reads as an attack on the medical profession and seems in poor taste largely because it shows total lack of understanding of the serious problem which may arise if the Government's proposals for a restricted drug list come into force.

Many of us have attempted to prescribe fewer, cheaper and more appropriate drugs for some years and I am only one of many who have issued generic prescriptions for approaching 10 years. What appears not be understood is the wholesale removal of groups of drugs, retaining just a few – some of which are inappropriate.

May I give just two instances? Britain has led the world in caring for the terminally ill patient; for these people who need large doses of opiate drugs distressing and painful constipation will occur if appropriate laxatives are not used at the same time. All the most valuable laxatives commonly needed for these patients are excluded from the list of allowed drugs.

While discussing pain relief it should also be noted that no drugs between simple aspirin or paracetamol and powerful morphine remain in the list. This means that many people are going to be given morphine, perhaps too soon.

The second illustration concerns the benzodiazepine drugs: three only in this group are retained and two of them are drugs which remain in the bloodstream for much more than 24 hours. This is entirely inappropriate in many cases, modern experts now preferring to use drugs which are eliminated inside 12 or certainly 24 hours.

Many members of the profession would support a more sensible prescribing list, but an article about the problem should be based on understanding, not ignorance of some of the serious problems which are likely to arise.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN W. BENNETT,
The Surgery,
Brookfield Road,
Hucclecote,
Gloucester.
December 14.

Reopening Cyprus file

From Mr Richard Cottrell, MEP for Bristol (Conservative)

Sir, In his letter to you on December 10 the Greek Ambassador neglects entirely the central point made by your contributor in the article "Time to reopen the old Cyprus file". It is, of course, precisely that.

The Ambassador does not explain why two governments have refused, since the restoration of democracy, to publish all the documents relating to the Samson coup and the subsequent departure of the colonels from illegal office. If the Greek authorities resent what the ambassador describes as ludicrous notions, then they have only to open the files. Since they refused to adopt this course, then speculation – and indeed, much more than speculation – is inevitable.

It is by the way disingenuous to blacken the character of Professor Devletoglou by dragging in his alleged associations with the military junta. There are many people in public office in Greece today who were appointed by that same junta. This is certainly a significant point to bear in mind in any discussion concerning not only Cyprus but Greece itself.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD COTTRELL,
48 Silver Street,
Midsomer Norton,
Nr Bath,
Avon.
December 11.

Motorway crashes

From Mr Robert Marris

Sir, As an erstwhile bus driver, I must take issue with Mr McCombie (December 13). He states: "Motorway collisions in fog always occur because a driver thinks he (sic) is going slowly enough when in fact he is not."

Most such accidents occur because the driver is following too closely behind the vehicle immediately ahead. The solution lies in the "two-second rule": regardless of your speed, keep at least two seconds behind the vehicle ahead, when weather and road conditions are ideal. In poorer conditions, lengthen the time interval, up to 10 seconds or more in icy conditions.

To calculate the time interval, pick a roadside mark ahead (e.g., a lamppost). As the vehicle ahead passes it, start counting "One thousand and one; one thousand and two" etc., and note whether you have by then passed that same mark. If you reach that mark before the time expires, increase your distance.

One advantage of this method over Mr McCombie's is that it requires no expenditure on spaced reflectors, nor on a development team of engineers!

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT MARRIS,
29 Eagle Street,
Pennfields,
Wolverhampton.
December 13.

Sizewell inquiry

From Mr John Baker

Sir, I should like to comment on two of your recent reports on the progress of the public inquiry into the proposed Sizewell pressurized water reactor power station. You reported (December 4) a claim by M Zerbib, a French engineer, that workers at the proposed power station would be exposed to twice the radiation level estimated by the Central Electricity Generating Board.

M Zerbib's figure of 430 manrems a year, compared with the CEGB target of 240 manrems a year, is not, as he claimed, in line with French experience of operating PWRs. It is a prediction based on an assumed increase in radiation levels in the future. As CEGB pointed out at the inquiry, neither M Zerbib's figure nor his assumption reflect experience in France or elsewhere.

Sizewell B's design incorporates many features which will reduce radiation dose levels below current French values. The most important of these is the use of low cobalt materials, which will reduce the radioactive contamination of the reactor coolant system, and therefore doses to operators and maintenance staff. The CEGB is committed to achieving the same radiation safety standards at Sizewell B as at its gas-cooled reactors.

Secondly, your reporting of the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate's final report to the inquiry (December 17) omitted to mention the inspectorate's conclusion that, provided the CEGB meets its future commitments and programmes on clearing safety issues, there is no reason why the predicted date of January, 1986, for licensing should not be met.

The NII's report also noted that agreement has now been reached on the resolution of the six substantial safety issues identified by the NII when the inquiry began, as well as good progress over a whole range of safety issues.

The board is not "arguing" with the inspectorate, as your news item says, over stress analysis for the steam generator hardware and the provision of more information on the computer-based protection system. This work is on the board's programme and there is every confidence agreement will be reached in the same way that many other more important items have been resolved.

It is not the case that LOCA (loss of coolant accident) is an outstanding dispute. This was resolved some time ago and does not even appear in the NII's final report of outstanding work.

Finally, outstanding safety issues will not affect the economics of Sizewell B, as evidence to the inquiry from the NII confirmed last week.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BAKER (Board member)
Central Electricity Generating Board,
Sudbury House,
15 Newgate Street, EC1.
December 20.

Joint boards for land reclamation?

From the President of the Landscape Institute

Sir, The progressive improvement of the physical environment of vast areas of England close to some of our greatest cities will surely stop with effect from April, 1986. This is the conclusion to be drawn from the Bill to abolish the metropolitan counties and the Greater London Council.

From a scrutiny of the published Bill one could be excused for believing that this traumatic legislation was prepared under the authorship of people quite unfamiliar with the accumulation of skills in landscape reclamation work assembled in the metropolitan counties – and, what is so ironic, with their proven record of cost-effectiveness.

Similarly, in the case of the GLC, it is becoming all too clear that the legislation's proposers have little idea of the extent of the GLC importance and influence in seeking to improve the landscapes of the Lee and Colne valleys; their long tradition of managing a number of metropolitan parks which straddle borough boundaries, as well as their work in creating major new metropolitan parks in the underprivileged parts of the capital.

The GLC's and the metropolitan counties' record in the fields of reclamation and environmental renewal are very much related to their successful provision of an agreed planning framework for the metropolitan areas in which environmental improvement is seen as an essential precursor to economic regeneration. Programmes, priorities for action and funding are set in an overall context and are not complicated by local issues.

Since the Government is proposing joint boards for functions such as police, fire, passenger transport, etc, why not a similar provision to continue the vital environmental work currently being carried out by the metropolitan counties and GLC? Such boards could provide not only the overall strategic planning framework, but also the skills and capability to tackle land reclamation, countryside and strategic environmental improvement, together with minerals control, highways planning and waste disposal. All are related environmental issues which require an overall planning context and direction to provide an efficient service to the metropolitan areas.

Such a joint board would also make possible the retention of the "specialist capability" (referred to by Mr Kenneth Baker, minister responsible for the Bill, in his statement in the House on November 16), within a small, efficient organization charged to tackle key strategic issues. If this proves impossible, then in some areas, such as the West Midlands' Black Country, why not tackle the problem by means of a specialized development agency or urban development corporation, similar to those established in Merseyside and London dockland?

Nobody close to this problem can understand (a) why established teams of very experienced people in landscape reclamation have to be broken up when their cost-effectiveness is not questioned, or (b) how the borough and district councils can be expected to sustain the sheer scale and momentum of the environmental rôle of the GLC and metropolitan counties.

All governments have accepted that environmental improvement is fundamental to achieving economic recovery in our metropolitan areas and accordingly have invested heavily in derelict land and urban programme funding. Has this Government adopted a different policy and – despite the Prime Minister's rumoured concern for the growing strength of the "green vote" – now decided to abolish the very agencies that have a proven record in the field of environmental improvement?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID E. RANDALL,
President,
The Landscape Institute,
12 Carlton House Terrace, SW1.
December 17.

Third London airport

From Mr M. H. Statham

Sir, Your leader-writer ("Stansted can wait", December 11) calls for a fifth terminal at Heathrow and a guarantee from the Government that a second runway at Stansted will not be built. This is simply muddled thinking. As he must surely know, the reason why the Government does not favour (to use his word) a fifth terminal is because of its pledge not to allow one at the time of the public enquiry into the fourth. If it backtracks on this pledge, any guarantee concerning Stansted will be demonstrably useless.

The logic of other aspects of your leader is also odd, to say the least. For instance: "a fifth terminal could be added at only marginal cost in burden on services and the environment". But anyone who believes this must also believe either that west London is a desert or that all its inhabitants are stone deaf.

With a fifth terminal built, the annual rate of passengers through Heathrow will more than double and it is only common sense to realize, despite BA's huffings and puffings to the contrary, that aircraft movements will double too (and indeed the Inspector himself granted this point at the enquiry – I was there and I heard him).

Over a wide area of west London noise from aircraft is already almost intolerable. It is beyond understanding how your leader-writer can characterize the doubling of this pollution (for that is what it is), with all it will mean in suffering for countless thousands of people, as a marginal burden on the environment.

Yours faithfully,
M. H. STATHAM,
13 Fabyc House,
Cumberland Road,
Kew,
Richmond,
Surrey.
December 12.

Tarkovsky family

From Mr David Gothard and others

Sir, We write as long-standing admirers of the Russian film director Andrei Tarkovsky and his brilliant films.

As your readers will know, he tried with tact and patience over many years to reach a modus vivendi with the Soviet political and cinema authorities. Gradually he was squeezed out, censored, harassed, ignored and, finally, treated with silent but calculating cruelty. In 20 years he has only been allowed to work at his art for about five. In July he finally felt compelled, against his will, to settle in the West.

Since 1982 he and his wife have, with official permission, lived abroad. But all requests that their 13-year-old son be allowed to join them have met with a stony silence. The unfortunate boy has been living with an 82-year-old grandmother, growing more and more anxious at his separation from his parents as he enters adolescence.

Our request to Mr Gorbachov, on the occasion of his visit to London, is a simple matter endorsed by the Helsinki Agreement of 1975: that all the members of the Tarkovskys' family who wish to join them should be allowed to do so.

Such a move by the Soviet authorities would be appreciated not only by us but also, we are sure, by our colleagues in the film industry and all lovers of the cinema.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID GOTHARD,
LINDSAY ANDERSON,
RICHARD EYRE,
STEPHEN FREARS,
DAVID PUTTNAM,
NICOLAS ROEG,
JOHN SCHLESINGER,
Riverside Studios,
Crisp Road, W6.
December 20.

NUJ editorship

From Ms Kate Holman

Sir, Contrary to Bernard Levin's unsubstantiated allegations (*The Times*, December 18), there is nothing conspiratorial about the NUJ London Freelance Branch's handling of the election for *Journalist* editor.

The branch conducts a mailing to its 3,200 members once a month, containing the LFB circular. The current mailing is the first since the ballot papers became available for distribution. Since, as Mr Levin points out, they do not have to be returned until January 14, giving members almost a month to fill them in, it would have been irresponsible for the branch to waste £600 of members' money carrying out a special mailing. There has been no "hold-up".

I, and no doubt many other NUJ members, would be interested to know who Mr Levin's anonymous "advisers" are. For those members of the National Union of Journalists who prefer to have the full story, the two candidates he failed to mention are Bernard Corbett, a humble sub on that revolutionary publication *The Guardian*; and Tim Gopsill, who has worked for such rabble-rousing organisations as *The Observer*, LBC and the BBC.

As an NUJ member with a belief in democracy I deplore Mr Levin's abuse of his privileged position as a *Times* columnist in order to canvass for the candidates of his choice – a privilege denied to the great majority of union members.

Yours faithfully,
KATE HOLMAN, Chairman,
London Freelance Branch,
National Union of Journalists,
Acorn House,
314-320 Gray's Inn Road, WC1.
December 18.

Just so

From Miss Anne Scott-James

Sir, Mrs Elspeth Huxley (December 14) claims that animals are never cruel, carnivores killing quickly for food and herbivores pursuing a policy of non-interference with others. But it is most unpleasant to see hens pecking the eyes of a sick sister in a hen coop, and a cat clearly has a good time playing with a mouse.

Yours faithfully,
ANNE SCOTT-JAMES,
78 Cheyne Court,
Royal Hospital Road, SW3.
December 12



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 20: His Excellency Mr Jambalyn Banzar was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Mongolian People's Republic to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy, who had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty: Mr Gonsurengiin Dugree (First Secretary) and Mr Tumur-Ochiryn Munkhsaikhan (Attaché).

Mrs Banzar had the honour of being received by The Queen.

Sir Antony Acland (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) who had the honour of being received by Her Majesty was present, and the Gentlemen of the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

His Excellency Mr Tsuyoshi Hirahara and Mrs Hirahara were received in farewell audience by The Queen and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from Japan to the Court of St James's.

Sir Anthony Rawlinson (Joint Permanent Secretary, Department of Trade and Industry) had the honour of being received by Her Majesty.

The Lord Carrington had an audience to The Queen when Her Majesty handed to him the Gold Badge and Chain upon his appointment as Chancellor of the Order of St Michael and St George.

The Queen, Patron, and The Duke of Edinburgh, accompanied by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Patron, The Prince Andrew and The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, this evening attended a Gala Performance of *The Nutcracker*, in aid of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

Their Majesties and Their Royal Highnesses were received on arrival by the Chairman of the Royal Opera House (Sir Claus Moser), the General Director (Sir John Tooley) and the Chairman of the NSPCC (Lady Holland Martin).

The Duchess of Grafton, the Hon Mrs Whitehead, Sir William Heseltine and Lieutenant-Colonel Blair Stewart-Wilson were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 20: The Duke of Gloucester was present this evening at a Dinner to commemorate the 150th Anniversaries of the Royal Institute of British Architects and the Chartered Institute of Building at the Baltic Exchange, St Mary Axe, London EC3.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Simon Bland was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
December 20: The Duke and Duchess of Kent were represented today by The Marquess of Normanby at a memorial service for Lord Howard of Henderskelfe which was held at York Minster.

The Duchess of Kent, as Patron of the United Kingdom Committee, today received Mr James Grant, Executive Director of Unicef.

Miss Alice Saxby has been discharged from hospital and is convalescing at home. She sends Christmas greetings to her many friends and regrets she will not be sending cards this year.

Forthcoming marriages

The Hon James Manningham-Buller and Miss N. M. Mackie
The engagement is announced between James Edward, elder son of Viscount Dilhorne and Mrs Stuart Holden, of 1 Alfreton Close, Wimbledon, and Nicola Marion, eldest daughter of Mr ad Mrs Sven Mackie of Ballydugan House, Downpatrick, county Down.

Mr J. F. Molony and Miss C. C. Ponsonby
The engagement is announced between John, younger son of the late Sir Joseph Molony, KCVO, QC, and of Lady Molony, of Chelsea, SW3, and Caroline, youngest daughter of Brigadier Wilfred Ponsonby, OBE, of West Burton, North Yorkshire, and of the late Mrs Christine Ponsonby.

Mr P. D. Aldred and Miss C. L. Whiteley
The engagement is announced between Duncan, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Aldred, of Bessacarr, Doncaster, and Caroline, elder daughter of Mr Brian Whiteley, of Ridgefield, Connecticut, and Mrs Sheena Whiteley, of Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Mr M. P. Atkin and Miss C. J. Paton
The engagement is announced between Matthew Philip, son of Dr Philip Atkin and Mrs Margaret Atkin, of Sheffield, Yorkshire, and Catherine Jane, elder daughter of Major-General and Mrs Douglas Paton, of Camberley, Surrey.

Mr M.J. Carboni and Miss A.K. Young
The engagement is announced between Marius, elder son of Mr and Mrs M.A. Carboni, of Sundridge Park, Bromley, and Anna, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.A.E. Young, of Plaxtol, Kent.

Mr R.J. Eden and Miss A.M. Brand
The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Mr and Mrs John Eden, of Palmers Green, and Alison elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Norman Brand, of Finchley.

Mr M.D.A. Carmichael and Miss N.P. Stewart-Meiklejohn
The engagement is announced between Malcolm, youngest son of Major and Mrs Peter O. Carmichael, Arthurstone, Meigle, Perthshire, and Nicola, only daughter of Major and Mrs Neil J. Stewart-Meiklejohn, Howard Place, St Andrews, Fife.

Mr H.L. Garnham and Mrs R. Watkins
The engagement is announced between Hugh, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Garnham, of Woking, Surrey, and Louise, widow of Mr Rhodri Watkins and twin daughter of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Turner, of Hereford.

Mr R. M. G. Gray and Miss M. A. Chambers
The engagement is announced between Robin Matthew Gilbert, elder son of Mr Gilbert Gray, QC, and Mrs Gray, of Beckdale House, Scalby, Scarborough, and Maureen Anne, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Chambers, of Manor Farm, Great Habton, North Yorkshire.

Dr P. V. Harrison and Dr P. J. I. Hall
The engagement is announced between Philip Harrison, of Halton, Lancaster, younger son of Mrs E. E. Harrison, of Cottingham, North Humberside, and the late Mr K. F. Harrison, and Philippa, daughter of Dr and Mrs A. W. I. Hall, of Arkholme, Lancashire.

Mr J. H. Hay and Miss S. J. Ogilvie-Thomson
The engagement is announced between John, younger son of Mr and Mrs J. E. Hay, of Dundonald, Ayrshire, and Sheelagh, only daughter of Dr S. J. Ogilvie-Thomson, of Oxford, and the late Mr M. C. Ogilvie-Thomson, of Peebles.

Mr N. E. Hill and Mrs A. E. Miles-Taylor
The engagement is announced between Noel Hill, of Askham, Cumbria, and Anne Miles-Taylor, of Bristol, where the marriage will take place quietly on February 1.

Mr M. J. Luckman and Miss C. W. Davies
The engagement is announced between Michael, only son of Mr and Mrs J. Luckman, of Bath, Avon, and Cerys, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs T. K. Davies, of Ewenny, Mid-Glamorgan.

Mr J. S. Pine and Miss S. E. Sasieni
The engagement is announced between Jack, son of Dr and Mrs Max Pianka, of Wembley Park, Middlesex, and Stephanie, daughter of Dr and Mrs Maurice Sasieni, of Harrow, Middlesex.

Mr M. M. Sheviane and Miss J. M. Clifford
The engagement is announced between Myles Michael, youngest son of Mr and Mrs M. Sheviane, of Peterborough, and Julie Marion, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs R. J. Clifford, of Oversley Grange Farm, Alcester, Warwickshire.

Mr D. E. Stout and Miss J. Gilchrist
The engagement is announced between David Edward, son of Mr and Mrs J. B. Stout, of Scotby, Carlisle, and Janatha, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs A. Gilchrist, of Formby, Lancashire.

Captain M. A. Tims, RE and Captain N. M. Coppock, RADC
The engagement is announced between Michael, elder son of Major D. W. M. Tims, RE, and Mrs of Chatham, Kent, and Nicola, youngest daughter of Surgeon Captain (D) and Mrs D. A. Coppock, of Alverstoke, Hampshire.

Mr A. C. Westwood and Miss J. H. Batten
The engagement is announced between Alan Charles, younger son of Mr and Mrs H. C. W. Westwood, of Sheltermoss, Humbling Bridge, Kinross, and James Helena, daughter of Mr and Mrs A. F. Batten, of Whitmore Vale, Cottage, Hindhead, Surrey.

Marriages

Mr D. H. T. Day and Mrs C. J. Wynne-Williams
The marriage took place quietly on Thursday, December 13, 1984 between Mr D. H. T. Day and Mrs C. J. Wynne-Williams.

Mr G. Edwards and Dr J. L. Hibberd
The marriage took place in Kensington, London, on Saturday, December 15, between Mr Geoffrey Edwards and Dr Joan Hibberd.

Professor A. C. Lendrum and Dr Ann Sandison
The marriage of Professor Alan Chalmers Lendrum and Dr Ann Brougham Sandison took place in St Leonard's College Chapel, St Andrews, on December 15, 1984. The Rev H. M. Gibson officiated.

Birthdays today

Sir Robert Armitage, 78; Sir Arthur Benson, 77; Air Commandant Dame Jean Bromet, 72; Lord Caccia, 79; Mrs Chris Evert-Lloyd, 30; Vice-Admiral Sir Raymond Hawkins, 75; Lord Justice Lawton, 73; Mr David McFall, 65; Mr W. M. M. Milligan, 77; Mr Merlin Minshall, 78; the Most Rev John A. Murphy, 79; Sir John Nabarro, 69; Sir Kenneth O'Connor, 88; Mr Anthony Powell, 79; Flight Lieutenant W. Reid, VC, 63; Mr Walter Spanghero, 41; Mr Greville Starkey, 45; Mr Peter Tinniswood, 48; Mr James Tye, 63; Dr Kurt Waldheim, 66.

Dinner

Royal Society of St George
The Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, were present at the Christmas dinner of the City of London Branch of the Royal Society of St George held at the Mansion House on Wednesday. Mr Brian Boreham, accompanied by Mrs Boreham, was in the chair and the other speakers were Admiral Sir Raymond Lygo, the Lord Mayor, Mr Deputy Alfred Shindler and Alderman F McWilliams. A message was received from the Queen.

Royal holiday opens with Prince's baptism

The Royal Family begin their traditional Christmas break at Windsor Castle today with the christening of Prince Harry.

Unlike most important days in the royal calendar, this one is planned to be as private as possible. The public and Press will not be allowed in, although it is widely expected that the Queen will include scenes in her televised Christmas message.

The baptism of Prince Henry Charles Albert David, who is now aged three months, is to be held in St George's Chapel within the precincts of the castle, whereas other recent royal babies have been christened in the Music Room at Buckingham Palace. The Archbishop of Canterbury will conduct the service.

The six godparents are Prince Andrew, Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones, Lady Vestey, Mrs Carolyn Bartholomew, a former flatmate of the Princess of Wales, Mr Gerald Ward, a friend of the Prince of Wales and Mr Bryan Organ, the artist.

Godparents, page 13.

Computer's bilious tartan creation

By Ronald Faux

Conjuring up tartan designs on a computer screen at the press of a button has been criticized as undesirable by the Curator of the Scottish Tartans Museum at Comrie, Perthshire.

Dr Michell MacDonald was reacting yesterday to the news that the Scottish College of Textiles at Galashiels has developed such a machine that will cut the cost and the time taken to design new textiles, including tartan.

Computers have their place in the scheme of things, Dr MacDonald admitted, but they could never be more than a tool in the hands of the designer. They could never replicate the flair and style that were the strengths of authentically designed tartans.

The most strident example of computer tartan that Dr MacDonald had encountered, had been produced for the state of Ohio in the United States.

It had mixtures of red representing the steel and automotive industries, green and gold for agriculture, blue for the Ohio lakes and rivers and white for the winter snows.

Five colours represented the nationalities and nations living in Ohio (black was curiously omitted although the state was the first to elect a black mayor) and there was a strong splash of yellow symbolizing the largest onion farm in the world.

"I called it the McVomit although quite by chance they had reinvented the Buchanan tartan except that the colours were slightly more bilious. It is a fairly appalling and sentimental way to design cloth.

"Certainly in days past no one ever sat down to design a plaid for the MacLumphas and wove into the texture blue for the varicose veins, red for the bloodshot eyes and purple for the claret nose of the clan chief", Dr MacDonald declared.

Tartan had developed over 2,000 years and whether it was associated with particular clans was beside the point. It remained the most popular cloth in the world next to denim and, according to the curator, there were signs that denim was on the decline.

He said that fashion designers from Italy, France and Japan understood that it was difficult to beat anything that had evolved over such a time in patterns that were both balanced and aesthetically appealing.



Royal return: The Queen of Spain yesterday welcoming home to Madrid her son, Crown Prince Felipe, after his arrival from Canada where he is at school.

Farewell to a life of drugs and smuggling

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

When Peter Cutting became a Customs officer 36 years ago Britain's drug problems were little more than the odd seaman caught with a "reefer" cigarette or dance band musicians trifling with herion.

Mr Cutting retires this month as the head of Customs investigation division after seven years leading some of the country's leading drug investigators in combating what is now being described as an epidemic of drug abuse.

Instead of louche musicians, today's addicts are teenagers in down-at-heel inner city areas. "Reefer" went out of currency two generations ago and cannabis now comes by the ton not the cigarette.

It is a far cry from the Customs service Mr Cutting joined after the last war. He cut his teeth dealing with smugglers who traded in gold Swiss watches and diamonds.

In 1956 when Mr Cutting became an investigator the branch contained a mere 70 staff. Today it is a full blown Customs division with 600 members and is still growing.

The watch smugglers have passed into criminal mythology. In their place there are VAT gold frauds running into tens of millions of pounds in coins or bullion, textile swindles and illegal high technology experts which may well become one of the new criminal growth industries.

Memorial service

Lord Howard of Henderskelfe
The Duke and Duchess of Kent were represented by the Marquess of Normanby at a memorial service for Lord Howard of Henderskelfe held yesterday at York Minster. Canon Martin Bowering officiated, assisted by Canon Michael Storrs Fox.

The lessons were read by the Hon Nicholas Howard and the Hon Simon Howard (sons) and Sir Marcus Worsley gave an address. The Dean of York Minster pronounced the blessing. Among those present were:

The Hon Henry Howard and the Hon Michael Howard (sons), Miss Christian Howard (sister), the Hon Mrs Nicholas Howard and the Hon Mrs Simon Howard (daughters-in-law), Mr Stephen Spens (brother-in-law), the Earl and Countess of Carlisle, the Marchioness of Normanby, Lord and Lady Martin Fitzalan-Howard, the Hon Lady Worsley, Mr Laurence Toynbee, Dr Jean Toynbee, Mr Anthony Preston, Miss Louise McCrady.

The Earl of Scarbrough, Lady Minion, Lady Katherine Phillips, the Hon Lady Storey, the Hon Mrs P Needham, Sir George and Lady Wombwell, Lady Ropner, Sir Peter Shepherd, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs D R Telley, Mr and Mrs Oliver Worsley, Mr and Mrs Nigel Forbes Adam, Mr R A Bethell, Mr Michael Foster, Mr Mark Winn, Mr B C R Dodsworth, Mr and Mrs Christopher York, Colonel and Mrs W E Behrens, Major I R Kibble, Mr P Stanley Price, QC, Wing Commander F D Procter, Mrs W A Fife, Major and Mrs Peter Bell, Captain R K Clark, Mrs Dermot Chichester, Mrs Hugh Birley.

Mrs J Arnold, Mr and Mrs S G Prest, Major and Mrs Lionel Stansfield, Mr and Mrs R Compton, Mrs P A Wormsley, Mr Edmond Lamb (comptroller, Castle Howard) and Mrs Lamb, Mr E Hartley, Mr Richard Robson, Miss Lyndall Bond, Mr John Chichester-Constable (Historic Houses Association, Yorkshire), Mr Robin Hill (Country Landowners' Association, Yorkshire), Mr John Jefferson (BBC Radio York), Mr David Challis (BBC), Mr Tim Pitt (BBC Radio Sheffield), Mr Roy Howell, Mrs Stella Clarke, Lieutenant-Colonel W B Ibbetson (The Green Howards), Mr Michael Stansfield (Corpus Christi College, Oxford), Miss Judy Sladden, and representatives of Yorkshire Philosophical Society, Yorkshire Agricultural Society, York Georgian Society, York University, York Racecourse, Yorkshire British Friesian Breeders, York Civic Trust, the Company of Merchants of the Staple of England and many other organisations with which Lord Howard was associated and members of the estate staff.

Latest wills

Sir John Gerald Lang, of Walton-on-the-Hill, Surrey, a former Permanent Secretary of the Admiralty, and Principal Adviser on Sport to the Government 1964-71 and Deputy Chairman of the Sports Council 1965-71, estate valued at £163,533 net.

Florence Louise Oates, of Sale, Greater Manchester, left estate valued at £102,113 net. She left all of her property equally between the Save the Children Fund, the British Friends of SOS Children's Villages, Oxfam, the RSPCA and PDSA.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):

Greisman, Mrs Sarah, of Golders Green, London £946,436

Kennedy, Mrs Joye McGown, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire £391,271

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include:

Captain J. C. K. Slater, Royal Navy, to be promoted Rear Admiral and to be Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Policy and Nuclear), in succession to Rear Admiral J. J. R. Oswald in June 1985.

Mr Robin Hodgson to be county chief executive for Hampshire County Council. Mr Hodgson, who is deputy chief executive and Clerk for Essex County Council, will succeed Mr Keith Robinson next May.

Mr Robert Atkins, MP for South Ribble, to be Parliamentary Private Secretary to Lord Young of Graffham, Minister Without Portfolio.

Move to Honour Mrs Thatcher

Mrs Margaret Thatcher has been recommended for an honorary degree at her old university, Oxford. The university wants to make her a doctor of civil law at its annual degrees ceremony in June.

Congregation, the dons' parliament, will have to confirm the award to the former Somerville College chemistry student when it meets on January 29.

A Downing Street spokesman said: "Obviously Mrs Thatcher would regard it as a great honour and would be delighted to accept."

Mrs Thatcher would join the Earl of Stockton, Mr Edward Heath and Lord Wilson of Rievaulx as Prime Ministers and former Oxford undergraduates awarded honorary doctor of civil law degrees.

Luncheon

Mr F. S. Law
Mr Frank S. Law gave a luncheon yesterday at Boodle's which was attended by:

Mr M Benabdeljalil, Baron R von Wechmar, Mr Norman Fowler, MP, the Hon Nicholas Ridley, MP, Mr Kenneth Baker, MP, Mr H H Blandford, Mr Kingman Brewster, Mr R H W Bullock, Lord Chalfont, Sir Kenneth Cork, Mr G C B Dodds, Mr B de Ferranti, Mr S E Flink, Mr M J Frye, Mr J E Gordon, Mr H P Hart, Mr S E A Kimmins, Mr C G H Law, Mr P C Law, Mr W G N Miller, Mr P Petrie, Sir Daniel Pettit, Mr R Rogers, Mr L de Rothschild, Mr F M Russell, Lord Sieff of Brimpton, Sir Ronald Swayne, Sir Peter Thompson and Mr K A C Thorogood.

Christening

The infant daughter of Mr Timothy and The Hon Mrs Steel was baptized Isabella Anne Augusta by the Rev Sandy Millar at Holy Trinity, Brompton on December 20. The godparents are The Hon Connan Maude, and Mr Alexander Russell, The Hon Mrs Johnathan Boyd (for whom Miss Clare Steel stood proxy) Mrs Ludovico del Balzo and Mrs James McMullen.

British junior team named

By a Bridge Correspondent

The British Bridge League has invited the following players to represent Great Britain in the junior section of the Common Market championships at Bordeaux in April.

J. Hill, P. Crouch; J. Mason, I. Popplestone; M. S. Smith, J. F. Pottage; reserve pair: J. Hobson, R. Plackett, (non-playing captain) R. S. Brock.

And the first half of the league's women's trials to determine the British team for the championships resulted in six pairs being formed into the following three teams:

Mrs R. Oldroyd and Mrs S. Penfold, Mrs M. Robertson and Mrs S. Macdonald; Miss K. Preddy and Mrs J. Lodge, Mrs J. Preddy and Mrs S Pike; Mrs B. Goldenfield and Miss M. Brunner, Mrs S. Scarborough and Mrs G. Scott-Jones.

They join the seeded silver medallists in the recent Olympiad, Mrs S. Landy, Mrs S. Horton, Mrs N. Smith and Miss P. Davies. The teams trial will be played on January 5-6 at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham.

Science report

Another key to the exploration of space

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The universe has been likened to a keyboard with 50 octaves. But the musicians attempting to play it, the astromoners, have access to only five keys.

The analogy comes from Professor Graham Smith, the Astronomer Royal and professor of the Nuffield Radio Astronomy Laboratories at Manchester University. He used it to explain the triumph of a research project which, in his judgement, has made another key available.

The successful venture is the infra-red astronomical satellite IRAS, which is showing an astonishing number of new objects in the sky.

An Anglo-American-Dutch enterprise, the telescope has opened a new window on the universe. Moreover, the discoveries are providing signposts for ground-based astronomers to direct their optical and radio telescopes to new areas of the sky for them.

Professor Smith's 50 octaves refer to the spectrum of radiation, ranging from radiowaves through visible light to gamma rays, which various telescopes can detect. The IRAS telescope revealed part of the infra-red spectrum between radiowaves and visible light.

Infra-red radiation is difficult to detect from ground-based observatories because it is absorbed by the atmosphere. In addition, there are a host of man-made sources of infra-red radiation to cause interference.

Even in space the IRAS telescope has a detector cooled with liquid helium to a temperature just 2.4° above absolute zero (minus 273.15°C) to avoid interference from other satellites and spacecraft.

Yet that part of the infra-red spectrum is of vital importance in detecting cool objects. In a graphic explanation, Professor Smith says: "It is the sort of radiation that an astronomer outside the solar system would have to detect if he was to locate a planet called Earth".

He was outlining the way astronomers on Earth are exploiting the information relayed from IRAS to search for evidence of other planetary systems. Using a new infra-red map of the sky charted from the observations of IRAS, one of the world's large telescopes of the Southern Hemisphere was turned on a star known as Beta Pictoris.

Infra-red observations suggested that it was associated with some cool material. Astronomers from the United States using the instrument, a 100in diameter telescope at the Las Campanas Observatory in the Andes mountains in Chile, obtained pictures of planetary-like material extending more than 50 billion miles from Beta Pictoris. That material is believed to be a possible new solar system in the early stages of formation, 50 light-years from Earth.

OBITUARY

LORD ST OSWALD

Former junior minister and MEP

Lord St Oswald, MC, DL, who died at his Mayfair home on December 19 at the age of 68 had been a junior minister in the Macmillan Government and was a former member of the European Parliament. But he will be as much remembered for his eventful life as a soldier and war correspondent whose experi- ences stretched from the Spanish Civil War to the Korean War; as the owner of Nostell Priory in Yorkshire and its great art collection; and as a colourful and gregarious character.

Rowland Denys Guy Winn was born on September 19, 1916, the son of the 3rd Baron St Oswald. He was educated at Stowe and then at the Universities of Bonn and Freiburg.

From 1935 he was the Reuter correspondent in Spain and in the following year became war correspondent for *The Daily Telegraph*, covering the Spanish Civil War. During the conflict he was arrested by the Republicans in Madrid, condemned to death and spent several weeks awaiting execution in prison in Barcelona before his release could be arranged from London.

After further service as a correspondent in the Middle East and the Balkans before the war, he enlisted in the army in 1939 and saw service with the 8th King's Royal Hussars in the Western Desert before volunteering for special operations. He was parachuted into Yugoslavia and Albania and later, transferring to the Far East theatre, operated behind Japanese lines. For these services he was mentioned in despatches and received the Legion of Honour and the Croix de Guerre from France.

From 1946 to 1950 he lived in Spain at Algeciras, his love for that country in no way affected by his narrow escape from the attentions of the Spanish authorities a few years before. He even became a keen amateur bull fighter to the dismay of some of his staider English friends.

When the Korean war broke out he donned uniform again and served with his old regiment in some of the toughest fighting of that war, being awarded the MC as well as being decorated by the Belgians and the French.

On returning from Korea he decided to enter politics and after contesting, without success, Dearne Valley for the Conservatives in 1955 he was adopted as candidate for Pudsey. However he had to give this candidature up in 1957 when his father died and he succeeded to the Barony of St Oswald.

From 1959 to 1962 he was a Lord in Waiting in the Macmillan administration and from 1962 to 1964 Joint Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. A committed European he became a member of the first European Parliament in 1973 but contested West Yorkshire unsuccessfully for the Conservatives in the European elections of 1979.

Though a great traveller and much at home wherever he found himself during his adventures abroad, St Oswald remained at heart a Yorkshire man deeply devoted to Nostell Priory and its wonderful possessions and grounds. Though the house had passed to the National Trust in 1953 he retained ownership of its magnificent art treasures which included more than 400 pictures including characteristic works by Holbein, Bruegel Gainsborough, Rembrandt and Richard Wilson.

Besides his ownership of a great collection Lord St Oswald was also an energetic supporter of the arts and had in particular been an active patron of the London International Festival of Theatre.

He was made a deputy Lieutenant for the West Riding of Yorkshire in 1962 and was Hon Colonel of 150 (Northumbrian) Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport from 1967.

He was twice married, firstly in 1952 to Laurian, daughter of Sir Roderick Jones KBE. This marriage was dissolved in 1955, in which year he married Wanda, a daughter of Sigismund Jaxa-Chamiec of Poland. She died in 1981.

The heir is his brother, Captain the Hon Derek Edward Anthony Winn.

MR JOHN WILMERS, QC

Mr John Wilmers, QC, who died in London on December 17 at the age of 63, was one of the leading advocates at the English Bar, with a formidable gift for cross-examination.

Born in Munich on December 27, 1920, he arived in this country at the age of 15, without any English. He attended Leighton Park School, and the Quaker principles which he encountered there were an influence on him for the whole of his adult life, though he was never himself a practising Quaker.

He had, in fact, a most active military career during the Second World War. After reading Law at St John's College, Cambridge, he served in the Commandos, was dropped into occupied France by parachute and, after accomplishing his mission, returned by small boat. He later served in the SAS; and was parachuted into northern Italy to join the Partisans. He was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple in 1948, and over the years built up a reputation in Libel and Contract, and in the complex litigation which straddles the border of Common Law and Chancery. Apart from his ability to cross-examine, his strength lay in meticulous and accurate preparation, backed by clearness of judgement.

He often appeared in cases concerning the Press – acting, for instance, both for and against Times Newspapers Ltd – and represented the BBC, actors and other show business figures, as well as businessmen from Hong Kong and the Near East.

He took silk in 1965, and served as a deputy chairman of Hampshire Quarter Sessions. From 1972 he was a Recorder, as well as a Bencher of the Inner Temple, and from 1978 he was a Judge of the Court of Appeal of Jersey and Guernsey. He himself perhaps attached even more importance to his position as a Governor of Leighton Park School.

A modest and private man, he applied the same unsparing energy to his recreations – skiing, travel, listening to music, gardening – as he did to his work. His marriage to the former June Mecredy, whom he had met in Italy during the war and married in 1946, was very close. She survives him, together with one son and two daughters.

DR FRANK WILD

Dr Frank Wild who died on December 19 at the age of 68 was, as Secretary of the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate, from 1972 to 1983, influential in the field of school examinations in the United Kingdom and many countries throughout the world.

Wild was born on May 19, 1916 and educated at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Blackburn. He went to Downing College in 1935, graduating in Natural Science in 1938 before proceeding to his doctorate in 1940.

He became a Fellow and Tutor at Downing in 1945.

As Senior Tutor at Downing from 1950 to 1965 he was a tireless campaigner on behalf of the College; he always told his colleagues that a college could never afford to rest on its laurels, and his drive and enthusiasm had much to do with Downing's enhanced status.

It was a sad blow to the College when he resigned his Fellowship in 1975, feeling impelled to transfer his allegiance and administrative talents to the Roman Catholic St Edmund's House.

Although for many years a member of the Council of the Senate and other University bodies, Wild made his mark after his appointment as Deputy Registrary in 1966. With his characteristic energy, in spite of chronic asthma, he introduced the "job evaluation" of the whole of the University's assistant staff – a massive and controversial exercise in a new climate of trade union participation in the negotiating committees for the university's assistant staff.

Wild's appointment as secretary of the "Syndicate" in 1972 took place at a time when, with other GCE Boards it faced a period of crisis and uncertainty as successive governments proposed major changes in the school examinations system. During the ten years until his retirement he waged a losing battle against the proposals of the Schools Council and the Department of Education and Science for the amalgamation of the GCE O Level and CSE examinations, urging the introduction of an intermediate examination for 6th formers.

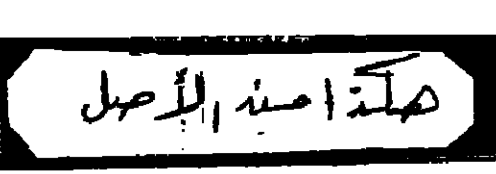
In such a complex educational and political arena, however, he was unwilling to compromise and his vehement administrative style led to controversy with the Oxford Delegacy, to the mutual disadvantage of both Boards in the government's subsequent reorganisation of the GCE and CSE Boards into the present regional system.

Throughout this period he had also to manage the Syndicate's world-wide examinations (over half-a-million candidates annually) while maintaining the goodwill of governments in Malaysia, Singapore, the Caribbean and many African states as these countries gradually took over full control of their own examinations – generally following the Cambridge pattern.

Wild's publications included his *Characterisation of organic compounds* (1947), which was a leader in its field.

The Rt Rev Nigel Edmund Cornwall, CBE, who died on December 19 at the age of 81, was Bishop of Borneo from 1949 to 1962, and later assistant Bishop in the diocese of Winchester from 1963 to 1973.

Brigadier Michael Preston Douglas Dewar, CB, CBE, who died on December 14 at the age of 78, was UK national military representative at Nato's Supreme Allied Headquarters from 1955 to 1958.



THE TIMES
FINANCE AND INDUSTRY
Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

McMahon is reappointed Bank deputy-governor

On the day when Budget Day was declared – it is March 19 – Downing Street removed any uncertainty about the future of the deputy-governor of the Bank of England, Christopher (Kit) McMahon. The Queen has approved his reappointment for five years from March 1 next. Two executive directors, Anthony David Loehnis, 48, and David Walker, 44, have been reappointed for four years from the same date.

Sir Robert Clark (Hill Samuel) and Sir David Steel, who was chairman of BP, are leaving at the end of February. Their places will be taken by Brian Corby, 55, chief executive of the Prudential Corporation, and Robert Haslam, 61, whose career since ICI has taken him into the chairs of Tate & Lyle and British Steel. Both are interesting as well as deserved choices.

The deputy-governor's future has been a subject of mounting speculation since the Johnson Matthey debacle, which demonstrated that the Bank of England's supervision of the banking system was not as good as outsiders thought and the Government felt it had the right to expect. Two of the headline consequences were the nationalisation of Johnson Matthey Bankers and, this week, the initiation of a Treasury-Bank of England examination of the banking supervision system. Though this is governed by the Banking Act 1979 it relies heavily on the Bank's knowledge, experience and touch.

With political and Treasury fingers pointing sharply at Mr McMahon, his reappointment by Mrs Thatcher began to be questioned, though not, it should be said, within the Bank. His character and contribution are highly valued, not least by the Governor, Robin Leigh-Pemberton, who did much to dissuade him from leaving the Bank for another career in the wake of the Governor's own surprise appointment.

The issue has now been laid to rest, not a moment too soon. While professional differences between Treasury and Bank may be healthy, any impression of disharmony and distrust immediately sets up bad vibrations in the City and abroad where links between Government and central bank are under constant critical scrutiny. With the three executive reappointments, the Bank's team for the next few crucial years is firmly in position.

Speculation about the content of the Budget can now begin in earnest. There have already been plenty of statements, hints and indications of attitude to feed it, with income tax cuts at the lower end, VAT on a greater range of goods and the treatment of personal pensions well to the fore.

The Bank of England, in its latest *Quarterly Bulletin* hoisted the frame. On basis of £132 billion of planned government expenditure, 8 per cent growth in Gross Domestic Product, the revenue projections in the Autumn Statement and a targetted Public Sector Borrowing Requirement in 1985 – 86 of £7 billion, the scope for tax cuts (the "fiscal adjustment") is £1½ billion.

Doubts behind Distillers cheer

Distillers, the Scotch whisky and gin group, yesterday produced a set of interim results that not unreasonably promped a few pre-Christmas toasts. In the half year to the end of September, pre-tax profits rose 19 per cent from £67.9 million to £80.5 million and better improvement is probable in the traditionally stronger second half.

Yet the fact remains that there is not too much for DCL to boast about yet. Around £8 million of the increase in profits is attributable to the strong dollar in which it invoices exports to the US of whiskies bottled in Scotland and Tanqueray gin. Another £1 million, bet of financing cost, came from Somerset Importers, the US liquor distributor acquired in May.

The second half contribution from Somerset might be in the order of £10 million after financing costs and with the benefits of production rationalization, especially at the 50 per cent owned United Glass, full-year profits might reach £230 million against £191.6 million. That forecast is based on the dollar-pound exchange rate remaining around its present level.

Below the line, the increase in earnings will be trimmed to a minimum by a strongly rising tax charge. With big stocks of maturing Scotch, all whisky companies have been hit hard by the abolition of stock relief.

The market for Scotch worldwide is showing little signs of improving. With a further weakening of demand for whisky in Britain, Venezuela, Japan and the Middle East in the last few months, DCL thinks it almost certain that volume sales will be down in 1984-85. A cloud also hangs over 1985-86 when a big rise in American Federal Excise Duty (the first anyone can remember) is bound to hit sales.

DCL is a conservative company but the decision to leave the interim dividend unchanged at 4.5p had a chilling effect on the stock market. The shares fell 9p to 298p, where the prospective p-e is 8.4 and the yield 6.5 per cent.

Opportunities for profitable growth in world markets for whisky are rapidly disappearing. DCL knows it better than anyone and it is therefore devoting much time and effort to the search for acquisitions that will broaden its range of branded consumer drinks and other products. But lacking recent experience in corporate deal-making, DCL will have to tread warily. It can sell whisky and gin but whether it can sell other things as successfully is a question.

Marriage partners on the move

The City's financial revolution is putting such pressure on the recent merchant banking and broking marriages that some of the partners are looking for new homes. S G Warburg is back in the property market having been in residence at Land Securities' 131,000 sq ft King William Street House next to London Bridge for a mere six months.

If Warburg's tie-up with Rowe and Pitman and Mullens, the stockbrokers, and jobbers Akroyd and Smithers, leads to a move, it would not be welcome news for Land Securities which has an estimated £4 million rent roll from King William Street House. Where could Warburg move if it does? High on the list of possibilities is Liverpool Street on the eastern edge of the City. The merchant bank has considered the one million sq ft of offices planned as part of the station's redevelopment by Rosehaugh and Stanhope Securities, as have others. It has also looked at the St Martins Property Corporation's London Bridge City scheme with almost a million sq ft of space south of the river.

Wage rises biggest threat to fragile economy, says Bank

By David Smith
Economics Correspondent

The economic recovery in Britain is delicately poised, the Bank of England says in its December *Quarterly Bulletin*, published today.

Cost pressures, particularly those associated with high wage growth and increased import prices, are the main risks to the economy.

The Orgnization for Economic Cooperation and Development, in its twice-yearly *Economic Outlook*, also published today, agrees with the Bank's assessment that an acceleration in pay rises is the main threat to the British economy. The Paris-based OECD also says that a prolonged coal strike would have "serious consequences" for the economy.

The Bank of England maintains that domestic monetary conditions are still satisfactory, in spite of the 2.7 per cent rise in the sterling M3 measure of money supply in the November banking month, and an upturn in bank lending since August.

The pound's weakness, which resulted in new trading lows of $1.1630, and 72.7 for the sterling index, and closing levels of $1.1663 and 73.0 yesterday, is attributed to oil price weakness and the uncertainties associated with the coal dispute. The Bank's economists dismiss the argument that sterling is falling because monetary policy is too loose.

The Bank expects a dollar fall next year, and refers in the bulletin to outside forecasts of a 5 to 10 per cent decline in the dollar's value in 1985. However, higher import costs associated with sterling's drop during 1984 are seen as one of the threats to the British economy next year.

The Bank's assessment of underlying growth prospects for next year is not too different from the Treasury's, probably 2 per cent against 2.5 per cent, but the Bank places greater emphasis on the risks to growth and the upward pressures on inflation.

Productivity growth has slowed, the Bank says, while earnings have continued to rise at a rapid rate.

Britain's inflation rate is stable at 4.5 per cent to 5 per cent, whereas the average for other leading countries is continuing to fall.

Lower interest rates, which would provide a boost to private sector spending, together with the containment of cost pressures, are seen by the Bank as essential ingredients for continuing recovery.

The Bank has revised upwards its forecasts for world economic growth in 1985 and 1986. It expects domestic demand in the seven leading economies to grow by 3.4 per cent in 1985 and 2.5 per cent in 1986.

World trade should also grow by 4.9 per cent in 1985 and 4.1 per cent in 1986, while British export markets are forecast to expand by 3.9 per cent next year and 3.8 per cent in 1986.

The OECD is also optimistic about world prospects, saying in its economic outlook that: "The overall prospects for output and inflation now appear as good as, or better then, at any time since the watershed year of 1973."

The main shadows are rising unemployment in most OECD economies, apart from the United States and Japan; doubts over the sustainability of the recovery in the United States economy, and the dangers associated with the large current account and federal deficits; and the international debt situation.

For Britain, the OECD sees economic growth of 3 per cent next year (1 per cent of which is due to the rebound from the miners' strike), and an inflation rate of 5.25 per cent.

GROWTH, MAJOR ECONOMIES

Real GNP	1983	1984	1985	1986
United States	3.7	6.75	3	3
Japan	3.0	5.75	5	4.5
Germany	1.3	2.5	2.75	2.75
France	0.7	1.75	2	2
Britain	3.2	2	3	2.75
Italy	−1.2	3	2.5	2
Canada	3.3	4.25	2.75	2
Total OECD	2.6	4.75	3	2.75

Source, OECD *Economic Outlook*, December 1984.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK, BRITAIN

% change	1983	1984	1985	1986
Private consumption	4.3	1.75	2	3.5
Investment	4.2	9.75	4.25	3.75
Exports	1.0	5.75	4	3.25
Imports	5.6	9	4.25	4.75
GDP	3.2	2	3	2.75
Consumer prices	5.1	5	5.25	4.5
Ind. productn.	2.5	2.25	3.5	4.25
Current account balance ($ bn)	4.4	-1.5	-0.25	-0.5

Source: OECD *Economic Outlook*, December 1984.

Further links for City brokers

By Philip Robinson

Two London stockbrokers yesterday announced further links as part of the reshaping of City firms. A 29.9 per cent stake in Williams de Broe Hill Chaplin will be acquired by Banque Bruxelles Lambert and a 5 per cent interest is being acquired in Scott Goff Layton by Smith Brothers, one of London's big five stockjobbing firms.

Smith Brothers, already linked with NM Rothschild wants to take full control of Scott Goff as soon as rules permit. However, Banque Bruxelles will only take a maximum of two thirds of Williams de Broe.

Mr Peter Clarke, joint senior partner of Williams de Broe, said the deal had been structured to provide continued incentives for the 33 partners all of whom intend to stay with the firm. There will be an incentive scheme for the "marzipan set", those executives ranked beneath partners, who so far have gained little from deals which realign City firms.

William de Broe said that it held talks with about five companies, all but one were only interested in owning the stockbroking firm outright.

For Banque Bruxelles, Willimas de Broe, which ranks eleventh among gilts brokers, about fifteenth in equities and third in gold mining shares, will give it a London springboard from which to tackle America.

If rules allow, Banque Bruxelles Lambert will increase its stake to 51 per cent with Banque Bruxelles Lambert Switzerland taking 5 per cent and the Paris-based Banque Louis Dreyfus, half owned by BBL, taking a 10 per cent.

Neither side were prepared to disclose the price of the deal last night. Meanwhile, Smith Brothers has agreed a cash shares package for Scott Goff. The partners will be able to elect to take payment through either 3.25 million Smith shares or £1.95 million cash over a five-year period.

Scott Goff has 24 partners and 148 staff. It is considered an institutional broker offering high-quality research in main equity sectors.

Almost a year ago N M Rothschild took a 29.9 per cent stake in Smith Brothers. This is the first deal since and is unlikely to be the last.

Banque Bruxelles Lambert does not propose any further London acquisitions

GDP up 0.5% in quarter

By Our Economics Correspondent

The economy grew by 0.5 per cent in the third quarter, according to new estimates of gross domestic product, based on output data, released yesterday.

The output measure of gross domestic product (gdp) was up 1.3 per cent on the third quarter of 1983. It is generally regarded as the best indicator of short-term movements in the economy although this year it is distorted by the effects of the coal strike.

The coal strike, government statisticians say, has reduced gdp by up to 1.5 per cent, so the underlying rise in output is 2.5 per cent – 3 per cent compared with a year earlier.

The output figure has been revised upwards from an earlier estimate which showed 0.2 per cent growth between the second and third quarters, because of new information which shows industrial production more buoyant.

There are three measures of gdp. The other two, based on income and spending measures, showed a mixed picture.

The spending measure fell by 0.4 per cent between the second and third quarters, and was 0.1 per cent down on the corresponding period of 1983. This was due mainly to a sharp deterioration in the trade balance, an increase in net imports.

The income measure of gdp rose by 0.7 per cent in the third quarter, to stand 3.0 per cent up on a year earlier.

The average gdp measure was 0.3 per cent up in the third quarter, and 1.4 per cent higher than a year earlier. The figures confirm that the coal strike is having a big impact on published growth figures, reducing year-on-year growth to about half of its underlying rate in the third quarter.

Telecom dispute over customer safeguards

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

British Telecom is heading for a dispute with the Office of Telecommunications (Oftel) over Telecom's failure to produce an acceptable code of practice to safeguard customer confidentiality.

Professor Bryan Carsberg, Director General of Oftel said yesterday: "Should it not prove possible to reach agreement I shall have to consider the use of my powers to obtain a set of adequate safeguards and at the last resort, seeking an amendment of the licence."

Telecom met the conditions of its licence by submitting a draft to Oftel by November 5, but according to Oftel it has proved inadequate. Oftel want to ensure that information obtained by Telecom, while providing telephone services should not be used to give it an advantage over an independent equipment supplier.

Professor Carsberg said: "I am concerned that the privacy and confidentiality of customer information is safeguarded and I am looking for guarantees from Telecom that will ensure this."

He added: "I have consulted with a number of organizations that represent consumer and industry interests about the content. This consultative process has indicated that the draft has a number of deficiencies and my staff are working to improve it so that it makes Telecom's employees fully aware of the company's responsibilities."

● Telecom is to invest £20 million in automatic equipment for speedy telephone fault detection and repair. The equipment will affect about 10 million telephone subscribers. In March the equipment will be installed in about 100 of Telecom's 360 repair centres for controlling its repair service.

Opposition to Opec price plan

From David Young
Geneva

The Organization of Petroleum Exporing Countries (Opec) is likely to formally adopt a new price structure today. This would leave its price unchanged at $29 a barrel but increase the heavier grades of crude oil, now in greater demand, by 50 cents.

Very light grades which compare most directly with North Sea Oil will be cut by 15 cents and a new type of Saudi Arabian crude adopted as the Opec marker grade at £29.

The new struture is likely to be adopted in the wake of a sometimes stormy session of the 13 Opec oil ministers last night with light crude producers leading the opposition to the new formula. The United Arab Emirates, Iran, Iraq, Nigeria, Libya and Algeria have argued that their incomes will be affected as they depend almost entirely on light crudes.

However, Opec is determined that its fragile unity will be reinforced and is now investigating ways of making its agreements more enforceable.

A full-time committee to police members' output and price structures and a summit meeting of all the Opec heads of state to make agreements binding have been suggested.

Members who admitted breaking their quotas set in October this year and selling crude on the world spot markets at below the official Opec rate were severely reprimanded.

Opec output is now formally limited to 16 million barrels a day, an agreement readopted yesterday. Saudi Arabia bears the brunt of the cut and has the authority to increase deliveries to meet any upturn in the market from its present 3.6 million barrels a day to 5 million.

Most member countries have, however, been selling oil above their quota limit

CE Heath expands

C E Heath, the Lloyd's insurance broker, is buying Astral Computer Services for £554,000.

Astral will join forces with Heath's subsidiary Datasure, which supplies computer services to the insurance market. Astral will also be launching an important on-line service to underwriters in the new year. The existing management team at Astral will be retained by the new owners.

The offer is £2 a share to be satisfied by the issue of Heath shares. There is a cash alternative for those not wishing to take Heath shares.

Heath shares closed down 3p at 550p.

£51m purchase

English China Clays announced the purchase yesterday for £51 million of the private concrete products group Edwin Bradley Holdings. ECC also revealed full-year profits for the trading period up to September 30 of £63.7 million (£46.5 million). Turnover was £604 million (£490 million). The dividend goes up from 8.75p to 9.6p, after a planned final of 6p.

Tempus, page 19

GrandMet up

Grand Metropolitan is to pay a final dividend of 5.5p, making a total of 9.2p (8.02p) for the year to September 30. Pretax profits of £334.3 million compare with £295 million last year, while sales advanced from £4.5 billion to £5.1 billion. Interest payable fell from £112 million to £109.6 million.

Tempus, page 19

End of pursuit

John Waddington has dropped its pursuit of the ultimate ownership of Mr Robert Maxwell's Pergamon Press Ltd., Pergamon Press Inc., and British Printing and Communication Corporation. Waddington is now satisfied that Mr Maxwell's entire 2,040,000 shares (23.3 per cent) stake has now been sold. Waddington shares last night gained 15p to 480p.

BET rise

British Electric Traction, the services and industrial holdings group, has increased pretax profits for the half-year to September 30 to £37.2 million, up from £31.8 million. Turnover dropped from £522.2 million to £452.5 million following disposals during the period. The interim dividend is lifted to 2.75p against 2.25p.

Tempus, page 19

NCB inquiry

The national Coal Board has appointed a team of four leading accountants to assist it in an investigation of its accounting practices and techniques which are criticized by five accountancy academics in an article to be published in the *Accountancy* magazine next week. The NCB team will include Sir Douglas Morpeth of accountants Touche Ross and Professor David Tweedie from Thomson McLintock the coal board's auditors.

Bank optimism

Sir Michael Herries, chairman of the Royal Bank of Scotland Group, says in the annual report: "We are confident that we shall continue to build on the sound foundations for the future established by our two existing banks

NEWS IN BRIEF

The Department of Health ıd Social Security is to instal 600 microcomputers into 453 cal offices next year to help cial security staff assess ıyments for the four million cipients of supplementary nefit.

The department said yester-ıy that Telecom had won the ntract to supply the com-ıters which will be installed er a 10-month period starting the summer.

The computers will guide ıff through each claimants sessment and calculate the ms due helping staff provide more efficient service, the partment said. The com-ıters are being supplied by the itish Logica with ancillary uipment from European mpanies.

FRAMLINGTON GROUP has ıde application for the whole ued share cap. to be admitted to official list. Since the original ıcing in May, 1983, funds under ınagement have risen from £153.1 llion to £250.5 million, the mber of unitholdings from 35,400 62,000 and the number of funds m nine to 12.

Two new subs. have been formed, ıt Trust Software and Framling-Life Insurance. The first is eady trading successfully and the ond is planned to start oper-ons in January.

ROYEX PROPOSED MERGER WITH PEZAMERICA: ronto-based Royex Gold Mining orporation hopes to increase its areholdings in International orona Resources, the Hemlo Gold ump pioneer in Ontario, Canada, a result of a merger proposed with ancouver-based Pezamerica Re-urces Corporation.

Royex and Pezamerica have reed "upon a business combi-tion of the two companies". The ntinuing company will be Royex old Mining Corporation.

REED EXECUTIVE: Half-ear to Sept. 29 Intm. Div. 1p Figs £000. T/Over 23,532 (18,356).

Minorco lifts Charter holding

By Michael Prest

Minorco, the Bermuda holding company controlled by the South African mining giant Anglo-American, has raised its stake in Charter Consolidated from 35.7 per cent to 36 per cent. The bigger holding underlines the commitment of the Anglo group to Charter the minins and industrial finance company, which has been battered by recent losses at Johnson Matthey and Cape Industries, two of its prime assets.

Charter has cut its stake in Minorco from 7.9 per cernt to 3.7 per cent. It said it intended to retain the residual holding in Minorco.

But in the market, where Charter gained 3p yesterday to 186p, the bigger Minorco holding was seen as an affirmation that the Anglo group would not abandon its offspring. The question now is the independence which Charter enjoys in mapping its stategy.

● *DALGETY*: Agreement has been reached between Dalgety UK and Anglo-Irish Beef Packers Group for Anglo-Irish to acquire as a going concern all the remaining fresh meat interests of Dalgety in Britain. Included in the purchase are the abattoirs at Blisworth, Wellingborough and York.

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

FT Ind Ord ....930.3(−12.3)
FT-A All Share ....N/A
FT Govt Securities ......81.88(−0.15)
FT-SE 100 ....1207.2(−13.4)
Bargains 25,222
Datastream USM ......104.3(−1.07)
New York
Dow Jones ....1208.03(+0.0)
Tokyo
Nikkei Dow ......11,514.15(−44.28)
Hong Kong:
Hang Seng ....1184.42(+11.11)
Amsterdam: ....180.7(−1.6)
Sidney: AO ....717.7(−0.3)
Frankfurt:
Commerzbank ....1091.1(+1.6)
Brussels:
General ....157.24(−0.6)
Paris: CAG ....18.13(−1.2)
Zurich:
SKA General ....318.90(−0.30)

GOLD

London fixing:
am $303.25pm-$307.50
close $307.00-$307.50
New York:
Comex $306.05

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:
Reardon Smith ....12p +2p
Sumrie Clothes ....70p +9p
Richard Clay ....104p +12p
I-D & S Rivlin ....81p +8p
Britannia Arrow ....84p +8p
SelecTV ....11p +1p
United Scientific Hldgs ..243p +22p
Minet Holdings ....251p +22p
Reliant Motor ....47p +4p
Weir Group ....39p +3p
ıngland Elec ....87p +6p
Ivory & Sime........92p +6p

FALLS:
MJI Corp ....11p −4p
Aspinall ....110p −14p
Breville ....12p −1p
Bristol Oil & Mins ....24p −2p
Grand Met ....303p −25p
Bio-Isolates ....40p −3p
Prince Wales Hotels ....98p −7p
V W Thermax ....120p −8p
Stewart Nairn ....15p −1p
Phoenix Props ....31p −2p
Slaters Food ....78p −5p

CURRENCIES

London:
£: $1.1663 (−0.0077)
£: DM 3.6345 (−0.0050)
£: SwFr 2.9925 (−0.0120)
£: FFr 11.1200 (−0.0255)
£: Yen 288.85 (−2.25)
£ Index: 73.0 (−0.3)

New York:
£: $1.1570
$: DM 3.1210 (+0.0)
$ Index: 143.4 (+0.2)

INTEREST RATES

London:
Bank Base: 9¼-9½%
3-month interbank 9¹³⁄₁₆-9¹¹⁄₁₆%
3-month eligible bills 9⁹⁄₃₂-9⅛%
buying rate

US:
Prime Rate 10.75-11.25%
Federal Funds 8⁹⁄₁₆%
3-month Treasury Bills 7.78-7.74%
Long bond yield 103⁹⁄₃₂-103⁵⁄₃₂%

WALL STREET

	Dec 19	Dec 18		Dec 19	Dec 18		Dec 19	Dec 18
[illegible]								
Delta Air	43 1/4	42 1/4	Norfolk South	57 1/2	57 1/2	Gulf Oil	15 3/4	16 1/4
Detroit Edison	15 1/4	16	NW Bancorp	24	23 3/4	Hawker/Sid Can	17	17
Digital Equip	109 3/4	108 1/4	Occidental Pet	28	28 3/4	Hudson Bay Min	6 3/4	6 1/2
Disney	60 1/2	60 1/2	Ogden	27 3/4	28 1/4	Imasco	47 3/4	47 3/4
Dow Chemical	28 1/2	28 3/4	Olin Corp	32	31 3/4	Imperial Oil	42 1/4	42 1/4
Dresser Ind	19	19 1/4	Owens-Illinois	39 1/4	39 1/2	Int Pipe	35	35 1/4
Duke Power	29	29 1/4	Pacific Gas Elec	17	16 3/4	Mass -Fergsn	3 70	3 75
Du Pont	48 1/2	48 3/4	Pan Am	4 1/4	4 3/4	Royal Trustco	17 1/2	17 1/2
Eastern Air	4 1/2	4 3/8	Penney J. C.	47 3/4	48 1/4	Seagram	50 7/8	50 3/4
Eastman Kodak	71 3/4	72 1/4	Pennzoil	44 3/4	43 1/2	Steel Co	20 1/4	20 1/2
Eaton Corp	52 1/4	52 1/2	Pepsico	42 1/4	42 1/2	Thomson N 'A'	51	49 3/4
Emerson Elect	69 1/4	70	Pfizer	41 1/4	41 3/4	Walker Hiram	24 1/4	23 3/4
Evans Prod	4	3 7/8	Phelps Dodge	13 7/8	13 7/8	WCT	15	15 1/8

● Ex div. a Asked. c Ex distribution. h Bid. k Market closed. n New issue. p Stock split. t Traded. y Unquoted

Active start to trading

Prices opened mixed in active trading yesterday.

The Dow Jones industrial average was up around 6 points shortly after the market opened. Declines led advances by 496 to 388.

Before the market opened, the Labour Department reported consumer prices increased 0.21 per cent last month. The modest increase kept the inflation rate from January until November at 4.1 per cent.

Small mark-ups for new cars translated into a seasonally adjusted decline.

A report from the Commerce department said that US businesses plan to spend 6.8 per cent more for new plant and equipment in 1985 than in 1984.

Several banks lowered their prime interest rate to 10.75 per cent, matching a move that started this week.

The Federal funds rate for interbank loans was 8.25 per cent in early trading.

The Fed's money supply figures due out after the close of *the stock market should provide* further clues as to the direction of interest rates.

Most economists expect an increase in the basic money supply after a large drop in the report issued last week.

Mobil off 1/8 at 25 7/8; Exxon up 3/8 at 43 3/4; Phillips Petroleum up 1/8 at 52 1/8; Union Carbide up 5/8 at 37; AT&T up 1/4 at 19; British Telecom unchanged at 11 3/4 *and IBM up 5/8 at 123 5/8.*

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

(These figures refer to Wednesday's trading)

	Open	High	Low	Close	Est Vol
Three Month Sterling					
Mar 85	90 16	90 16	89.96	89 97	898
Jun 85	89 95	89 95	89 85	89 84	156
Sep 85	89 75	89 75	89 69	89 67	30
Dec 85	89 60	89.60	89.60	89 43	20
Mar 86	Nt	–	–	89 31	–
Previous day's total open interest 4853					
Three Month Eurodollar					
Mar 85	90 70	90.72	90.51	90 55	3255
Jun 85	90 17	90 18	89 98	90 01	241
Sep 85	89 70	89 71	89 54	89 52	69
Dec 85	89 21	89.22	89.11	89 10	22
Mar 85	Nt	–	–	88.75	–
Previous day's total open interest 9209					
US Treasury Bond					
Dec 84	73-25	73-26	74-09	73-09	4
Mar 85	72-17	72-24	72-04	72-05	2017
Jun 85	Nt	–	–	71-20	–
Dec 85	Nt	–	–	–	–
Previous day's total open interest 1961					
Long Gilt					
Dec 84	107-26	107-27	107-10	107 15	93
Mar 85	107-07	107-13	106-22	106-30	2989
Jun 85	Nt	–	–	106-11	–
Sep 85	Nt	–	–	109-15	–
Dec 85	Nt	–	–	109-04	–
Previous day's total open interest 3914					
FT SE 100					
Dec 84	122 25	122 35	121.70	122.30	199
Mar 85	122 50	122.75	122.00	122.45	104
Jun 85	Nt	–	–	122 65	–
Previous day's total open interest 1144					

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY PRICES

Rubber in £'s per tonne; Coffee, cocoa, sugar in pounds per metric ton; Gas-oil in US $ per metric ton.

G W Joynson and Co report

RUBBER	
Jan	640–600
Feb	650–610
Mar	660–620
Apr	670–630
May	680–640
June	690–650
July	700–660
Aug	710–670
Sept	720–680
Jan/Mar	635–620
Apr/June	680–655
July/Sept	710–670
Vol	Five at 15 tonnes
SUGAR	
Mar	121.6–21.2
May	129.4–29.2
Aug	139.4–39.2
Oct	146.6–46.0
Dec	0153.6–52.0
Mar	168.2–67.0
May	175 0–73.0
Vol	1893
COCOA	
Dec	1842–40
Mar	1858–57
May	1878–77
July	1890–89
Sept	1885–80
Dec	1844–40
Mar	1880–25
Vol	248/5312
COFFEE	
Jan	2263–60
Mar	2247–45
May	2228–27
July	2230–28
Sept	2225–222
Nov	2230–2215
Jan	2220–2207
GAS OIL	
Dec	218.00–16.50
Jan	221.00–20.75
Feb	221.00–20.75
Mar	218.00–17.75
Apr	215.25–14.50
May	215.00–14.50
June	215.00–14.00
July	215.00–10.00
Aug	216.00–09.00
Total volume	1584

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Unofficial prices: Official turnover figures

Prices in pounds per metric ton. Silver in pence per troy ounce

Rudolf Wolff & Co Ltd report

COPPER HIGH GRADE	
Cash	1138.00–1138.50
Three months	1149.50–1150.00
T/O	11900
Tone	firmer
STANDARD CATHODES	
Cash	1142.00–1144.00
Three months	1153.00–1155.00
T/O	nil
Tone	idle
TIN STANDARD	
Cash	9950–9960
Three months	9915–9920
T/O	400
Tone	steady
TIN HIGH-GRADE	
Cash	9970–9990
Three months	9950–9960
T/O	50 a switch
Tone	quiet
LEAD	
Cash	347.00–349.00
Three months	332.25–332.75
T/O	2750
ZINC STANDARD	
Cash	680.00–682.00
Three months	677.00–679.00
T/O	2400
Tone	steady
ZINC HIGH GRADE	
Cash	744.00–748.00
Three months	728.00–732.00
T/O	nil
Tone	idle
SILVER LARGE	
Cash	536.0–537.0
Three months	548.5–550.0
T/O	10
Tone	quiet
SILVER SMALL	
Cash	536.0–537.0
Three months	548.5–550.0
T/O	nil
Tone	idle
ALUMINIUM	
Cash	904.00–906.00
Three months	925.00–926.00
T/O	20250
Tone	irregular
NICKEL	
Cash	4110–4115
Three months	4148–4150
T/O	1080
Tone	irregular

LONDON GOLD FUTURES MARKET

In US $ per oz.

Feb	310.00–310.20
Vol	701
Tone	quiet

MEAT AND LIVESTOCK COMMISSION:

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on December 19:

GB: Cattle, 97.62p per kg lw (–5.64).
GB: Sheep, 186.95p per kg est d c w (–1.00).
GB: Pigs, 85.38p per kg lw (–2.17).
England and Wales:
Cattle nos. down 2.0 per cent, ave. price, 98.24p (–5.69).
Sheep nos. down 15.4 per cent, ave. price, 188.54p (–0.54).
Pig nos. down 49.2 per cent, ave. price, 85.38p (–2.17).
Scotland:
Cattle nos. up 19.8 per cent, ave. price, 96.63p (–5.26).
Sheep nos. down 39.4 per cent, ave. price, 170.27p (–9.29).

LONDON GRAIN FUTURES MARKET

Month	Wheat B Close	Barley Close
Jan	£109.60	£110.45
Mar	£113.25	£113.45
May	£117.05	£116.60
Jly	£118.90	–
Sep	£97.95	£97.95
Nov	£101.25	£100.95

Total lots traded
Wheat 178
Barley 171

APPOINTMENTS

Moy Park: Mr William Carson has been named as non executive chairman.

Ultramar: Mr Lloyd Bensen will become chairman on January 1 in succession to Mr Arnold Lorbeer who will remain a director.

Equity Capital for Industry: Mr David Wansbrough and Mr Jonathan Baker will be directors from January 1.

Britainnia Asset Management: Mr James C. Parrish has been appointed chairman. Messrs Adrian J. Brown, Gareth W. Robertson and Hugh R. Ward will become directors *and Mr David P. Kidd will be* international economist from January 1.

C. T. Bowring & Co: Mr H. M. J. Ritchie will be chief executive in succession to Mr R. V. Craig from January 1.

Early's of Witney: Mr J. S. M. Jones and J. A. Heywood have been appointed directors.

Pacol: Mr J. S. Barnes has been named chairman in succession to Mr A. P. Propper. Mr L. D. Aitken becomes a director in succession to Mr M. L. Lawinski.

A Poortman (London): Mr Robert D. Burkeman has been appointed executive director from January 1.

Tesco Stores: Mr T. P. Leahy and Mr A. Benjamin will become directors on Jan8ary 1.

National Westminster Bank USA: Mr James R. Good has been elected a senior vice-president.

Dolamore Holdings: Mr David Brann, managing director of Bentley's has joined the board of Dolamore Holdings.

Jordan & Sons: Dr Phil Holmes has been appointed director responsible for information services.

SGB Group: Mr Donald Andrew Holland and Mr Michael Edward Wates are to be non-executive director.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1984 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
164	119	Aberdeen	164	● +1	7 5	4 6	..
88 1/2	56	Ailsa	88 1/2	+1/2	1.9	2.1	..
588	438	Alliance	585	–3	20 7	3.5	..
116 1/2	88 1/2	Amer	116 1/2	+1/2	3 8	3 1	..
269	218	Ang Amer Sec	268	–1	7.6	2 9	..
162	115	Ang Scot	162	..	4 0	2 5	..
390	310	Ashdown	390	+1	10.3	2 6	..
[illegible]							
105	77	Glasgow Stock	105	..	2.6	2.5	..
252	197	Globe	251	..	12.9	5.1	..
215	176	Greenfriar	207	..	1.9	0.9	..
250	167 1/2	Gresham House	235	● ..	5.7	2.4	..
142	114	Hambros	142	● ..	5.4	3 8	..
229	187	HIE (P)	225	–2	13.2	5.8	..
498	390	Invest-in Success	498	+3	7.6	1.5	..
[illegible]							
79	59	Tr City Of Lon Dfd	78	–1	4.4b	5 7	..
143	121	Tr Ind & Gen	141	–1	4.8b	3.4	..
260	201	Tr Natural Res	240	● –2	10.7	4.5	..
176	130	Tr North America	170	● ..	4.9b	2.9	..
280	192	Tr Pacific Basin	280	+5	2.9b	1.0	..
139	107	Tr Property	138	● –1	4.7	3.4	..
[illegible]							
78		Frost (J J & D)	82	–2	4.0	4.8	12.1
42		Goode (D & M)	44	..	1.8	4.1	7.3
357		Henderson Admin	550	● +6	15.7	2.9	11.6
590		M & G	720	+18	31.4	4.4	17.8
215		Martin (RP)	375	..	17.9	4.8	8.0
247		Mercantile House	304	+12	17.1	5.6	7.7
255		Mills & Allen	355	+5	20.0	5.6	10.9
70		Smith Brothers	102	–2	7.9	7.7	4.4
175		Yule Catto	200	..	7.9	3.9	9.1

FINANCIAL TRUSTS [illegible]

AUTHORIZED UNIT TRUSTS

1983/84 High Bid	Low Offer	Trust	Bid	Offer	Yield
		Abbey Unit Trust Managers			
		1-3 St Paul's Churchyard EC4P 4DX		01-236 1833	
[illegible]					
		Capel (James) Management Ltd			
		100 Old Broad St, EC2N 1BQ		01-588 6010	
240 0	170 1	Capital Fnd (3)	240 0	252 7	2 70
161 2	108 3	Income Fnd (3)	181 2	190 8	5 86
233 2	169 7	Nth Amer Fnd	229 6	241 7	1 10
		Cater Allen Unit Trust Managers			
		1 King William St, EC4N 7AU		01-623 6314	
[illegible]					

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Period rates opened nervously higher as the pound sank to new depths on foreign exchanges. But the market gradually regained its composure as the pound staged a mid-afternoon rally and as operators became more optimistic about the chances of a cut in the US discount rate.

Closing rates showed little change on balance, even though sterling was suffering again late in the session.

Interbank "threes" ended unchanged, after initially rising by 1/16 per cent to 10-9 7/8 per cent. The one year also reverted to its overnight position having been 1/8 per cent high at 10 7/16-5/16 per cent. Business was small.

Overnight money hovered at around 9 1/2 per cent mostly, but climbed to 10 1/2 per cent.

Base Rates %
Clearing Banks 9 1/2-9 1/2
Finance House 10 1/2
Discount Market Loans %
Overnight High 9 3/4 Low 8

Treasury Bills (Discount %)
Buying: 2 months 9 [illegible]; 3 months 9 [illegible]
Selling: 2 months 9 1/4; 3 months 9 1/8

Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)
1 month 9 [illegible]; 2 months 9 [illegible]
3 months 9 [illegible]; 6 months 9 [illegible]

Trade Bills (Discount %)
1 month 10 [illegible]; 2 months 9 [illegible]
3 months 9 [illegible]; 6 months 10 1/8

Interbank (%)
Overnight: open 9 1/2 close 10 [illegible]
1 week 9 [illegible]; 6 months 10 1/8-10
1 month 9 [illegible]; 9 months 10 [illegible]
3 months 9 [illegible]; 12 months 10 [illegible]

Local Authority Deposits (%)
2 days 9 1/4; 7 days 9 1/4
1 month 9 1/2; 3 months 9 3/4
6 months 9; 12 months 9 [illegible]

Local Authority Bonds (%)
1 month 10 1/4-9 7/8; 2 months 10 1/4-9 7/8
3 months 10 1/4-9 7/8; 6 months 10 1/8-9 3/4
9 months 10 1/4-10; 12 months 10 1/4-9 7/8

Sterling CDs (%)
1 month 9 [illegible]; 3 months 9 [illegible]
6 months 9 [illegible]; 12 months 10-9 7/8

Dollar CDs (%)
1 month 8.40-8.30; 3 months 8.10-8.50
6 months 9-8.90; 12 months 9.80-9.60

EURO-CURRENCY DEPOSITS %

Dollar		call	[illegible]
7 days	[illegible]	1 month	[illegible]
3 months	[illegible]	6 months	[illegible]
Deutschmark		call	[illegible]
7 days	6-5 7/8	1 month	[illegible]
3 months	[illegible]	6 months	[illegible]
French Franc		call	11-10
7 days	[illegible]	1 month	[illegible]
3 months	[illegible]	6 months	[illegible]
Swiss Franc		call	[illegible]
7 days	[illegible]	1 month	[illegible]
3 months	[illegible]	6 months	[illegible]
Yen		call	[illegible]
7 days	[illegible]	1 month	[illegible]
3 months	[illegible]	6 months	[illegible]

GOLD

Krugerrand* (per coin): $316-317.50 (£269.75-271.25)
Sovereigns* (new): $71.50-72.50 (£61-62)
*Excludes VAT

ECGD

Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period 3 November, 1984 to 4 December, 1984, inclusive: 9.904 per cent.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Sterling finished another uneasy session, off record low positions earlier on in the session, but still lower on balance against the dollar at $1.1663 – a fall of 77 points.

At one stage in Far-Eastern markets, the pound had been traded down to 1.1630.

There was also a small recovery in sterling's trade-weighted index which after tumbling to another all-time low of 72.7, finished at 73.0, compared with 73.3 overnight.

An early 1.50-pfenning fall against the D-mark was recouped but lost again. The West German currency ended stronger at 3.6210 (3.6400).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

	Market rates day's range December 20	Market rates close December 20	1 month	3 months
New York	$1.1630-1.1745	$1.1655-1.1670	0.14-0.11c prem	0.40-0.35c prem
Montreal	$1.5350-1.5475	$1.5354-1.5379	0.07-0.11c disc	0.03-0.11c disc
Amsterdam	4.0795-4.1248fl	4.1043-4.1142fl	1 1/8-1 1/4c prem	4 3/8-4 1/4c prem
Brussels	72.36-72.74f	72.83-72.90f	4-9c disc	6-15c disc
Copenhagen	12.98-13.08k	12.99-13.01k	2 1/2-3 3/4ore disc	5 1/2-6 7/8ore disc
Dublin	1.1567-1.1689p	1 1675-1.1775p	44-60p disc	129-159p disc
Frankfurt	3.6115-3.6495m	3.6309-3.6379m	1 3/8-1 1/4pf prem	4 1/8-3 7/8pf prem
Lisbon	193.25-198.10e	193.89-195.47e	175-695e disc	515-1650e disc
Madrid	200.00-201.90p	200.06-200.44p	50-80p disc	130-160p disc
Milan	2219.50-2246.80lr	2235.36-2230.58lr	7-11lr disc	22-29lr disc
Oslo	10.5000-10.5930k	10.5008-10.5202k	2 3/4-3 3/4ore disc	7 3/4-8 1/4ore disc
Paris	11.0480-11.1754f	11.1046-11.1305f	3/4-1 3/4c disc	1 3/4-2 3/4c disc
Stockholm	10.3500-10.4630k	10.3567-10.3759k	1 7/8-2 3/4ore disc	4 1/2-5 1/4ore disc
Tokyo	288.14-291.29y	288.61-289.10y	1-3/4y prem	2 3/4-2 1/4y prem
Vienna	25.37-25.64sch	25.37-25.41sch	4 3/4-2 3/4gro prem	16 1/4-11 3/4gro prem
Zurich	2.9832-3.0125fr	2.9880-2.9952fr	1 3/4-1 1/4c prem	3 7/8-3 1/2c prem

Sterling index compared with 1975 was down 0.3 at 73.0 (day's range 73.2-72.7).

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina peso	190.75-191.15
Australia dollar	1.3984-1.4014
Bahrain dinar	0.4380-0.4420
Brazil cruzeiro	3501-3524
Cyprus pound	0.7350-0.7450
Finland marka	7.5530-7.5930
Greece drachma	147 15-1489.15
Hongkong dollar	9.1061-9.1158
India rupee	14.26-14.46
Iraq dinar	n.a.
Kuwait dinar (KD)	0.3525-0.3565
Malaysia dollar	2.8104-2.8152
Mexico peso	225-250
New Zealand dollar	2.4239-2.4000
Saudi Arabia riyal	4.1370-4.1570
Singapore dollar	2.5311-2.5357
South Africa rand	2.2791-2.2858
United Arab Emirates dirham	4.2675-4.3075

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Ireland	0.9970-0.9990
Singapore	2.1755-2.1775
Malaysia	2.4155-2.4175
Australia	0.8310-0.8320
Canada	1.3180-1.3185
Sweden	8.9150-8.9450
Norway	9.0350-9.0650
Denmark	11.1500-11.1800
West Germany	3.1200-3.1250
Switzerland	2.5700-2.5730
Netherlands	3.5180-3.5200
France	9.5450-9.5550
Japan	247.70-247.85
Italy	1914-1919
Belgium(Comm)	62.30-62.35
Hong Kong	7.8265-7.8280
Portugal	166.00-167.50
Spain	171.55-171.70
Austria	21.79-21.81

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank HOFEX and Extel. *Lloyds Bank International.

COMPANY NEWS

● BTR: Terms have been agreed in Australia for the acquisition by BTR Hopkins (the sixty-seven per cent sub of BTR) from ACI International of the Nylex Corpn and certain freehold properties connected with the business. The consideration will be about A$60m (£43m) cash plus the assumption of a A$75m relates to the business of Nylex Australia, representing discount on the book value of the assets.

● SUPERDRUG STORES: Nine months to Nov 24. Figs in £000. T/over 91.819 (72.272). Pretax profit 6.231 (4.968). Tax 1,558 (2.136).

● STERLING INDUSTRIES: Half-yr to May 30: Intm div 0.5p (0.5p). Figs £000. T/over 3.125 (3,053). Pretax profit 252 (302).

● XYLLYX: Results for six months to Sept 30 (10 months to March 31, 1984). No intm div (nil). T/over £57.246 (£26.467). Pretax loss £177.469 (£61.477). Loss per shr 0.89p (1.34p). The co's performance has been disappointing because of the failure to secure any significant orders to date. These orders (with one exception due to a change in specification) have not been lost to other suppliers but are still under negotiation. The new board believes that the co's products still have potential to generate significant profit and intends to consolidate and develop the existing business of the co as well as to diversify and expand the co's activities. No changes in the nature of the co's business are envisaged.

● BANKERS' INVESTMENT TRUST: Year to Oct.31. Div 1.08p, making 2.28p (2.08p adj). The board intends to increase each of the three interim dividends payable in May, August and November 1985 to 0.5p per share (0.40p) and to pay a fourth interim div of not less than 0.95p per share in Feb, 1986. Figs in £000. Total revenue 3,848 (3,098). Expenses and interest payable 1,054 (426). Tax 946 (932). Eps 2.32p (2.18p adj).

● BRITISH PETROLEUM-SELTRUST: The Western Australian Supreme Court has ordered meetings of the shareholders of Seltrust Holdings to consider the proposed scheme of arrangement. The meetings will be held in Perth on Jan 22. Under the proposed scheme a newly formed co, Paragon Resources, will hold seventy-five per cent of the Temora Gold Prospect, a number of other gold exploration tenements and will have about A$8m in cash.

● SHEAFBANK PROPERTY TRUST: Six months to Sept 30. No ord intm div (nil). Figs in £000. Gross rental income 237,155 (115,220). Pretax profit 315 (6,754). With the merger of Sheafbank Prop. Tst and Gradeland Securities having been completed in Feb. 1984, the first half of the curent year has been devoted to integrating the companies and reorganizing and rationalizing the management of the group, the prop portfolio and the group's funding.

Berisfords Group's results for half-year to Sept 30. Interim div. 1.55p (1.4p). Figs in £000. Grp t/over 9,866 (10,008). Pretax profit 315 (248). Eps 5.2p (4.1p). It appears likely that profits in the second half will exceed thoise now reported. A decision on the rate of dividend to be recommended to shareholders for the full year will be taken when the results for the year are available.

● BATLEYS OF YORKS: Half-year to Oct 27. Int. div. 0.625p (0.5p). Figs in £000. Turnover 85.588 (77.306). Group profit attrib. 452 (499) after all charges, including tax of 250 (107 adj). Eps basic 5.24p (5.82p). Fully diluted 3.71p (4.12p).

● REXMORE: Results for six mons to Sept 29. Intem div 0.675p (0.6p). Figs in £000. Turnover 13.745 (12,847). Pretax profit 270 (285).

● G F LOVELL: Results for six months to Sept 30. Figs in £00. Turnover 1.453 (1.732). Loss before tax 9 (8 profit). Tax 3 crdt (1 dbt)

● M J I CORPN: Half-year to June 30. No intm div. Figs in £000. T/over 9.286 (8,494). Pretax loss 837 (501 profit). After interest 507 (nil) and consisting of retained activities loss 93 and disposed activities loss 237. Tax cdt. 250 (51 charge). Extraord dbt 740 (nil). Loss per share 2.62p (2.3p earnings).

● NORTHAMBER: Half-yr to Oct 31. Figs in £000. T/over 6.621 (4.011). Pretax profit 454 (154). Eps 3.4p (2.1p). The directors are pleased with the performance to date and are encouraged by the outlook for the year as a whole.

● STIRLING GROUP: Results for half-yr to Sept 30. Intm div 0.4p (0.28p adj). Figs in £000. Sales 9.540 (8,852). Profit before tax 829 (694). Tax 373 (361). Earnings per share 3.12p (2.28p adj). Margins have continued to improve through constant attention to increased efficiency.

● ICC OIL SERVICES: Half-yr to Sept 30. No intm div. Figs £000. Turnover 8,065 (6,672). Pretax profit 416 (369). Tax 183 (192). Pft attrib 233 (177). Eps 0.45p (0.36p).

● WEBSTERS GROUP: Octopus has received acceptances under the offer made for Websters in respect of a total of 10.76 million ordinary shares in Websters, representing 68.34 per cent of the issued share cap. When added to the 785,833 (4.99 per cent) Websters shares which Octopus owned prior to the announcement of the offoer and the Websters shares acquired, these shares represent 88.31 per cent of the issued share capl. of Websters.

● PHILIP HARRIS: Int div 3p (2p) for half year to Sept 30. The disparity between the interim and final div has progressively increased in recent years and the directors consider it appropriate to correct this in part. Figs in £000. Turnover 13,045 (11,980). Pretax profit 292 (258).

● HOLLIS BROS E.S.A. has agreed to purchase, subject to shareholders' consent, Diomede, wholly-owned by A H McIntosh and Co (in receivership). The company now owns the trade and goodwill of McIntosh, manufacturers and marketers of domestic and contract furniture of Scotland and intends in due course to change its name to A H McIntosh and Co. Hollis has also contracted to purchase the freehold factory premises on an 11.16 acre site in Kirkcaldy, Scotland, where the company carries on its trade. The aggregate amount which Hollis will require to pay to the vendors of the company is £1 million.

● VOYAGER PETROLEUMS (UK): The directors of BP Petroleum and Voyager have agreed on the terms of a recommended offer to be made by BP for Voyager, on the basis of 55p in cash for every ordinary share of 10p each. The offer puts a value on Voyager of £5.5 million.

● CHEMRING: Div 10p (7.6p) for year to September 30. Figs in £000. Sales 7,631.5 (6,130.4). Pretax profit 1,452.4 (1,302.5). The board states that with the current strong order book, management team and an increasing demand, Chemring is set for another good year.

● CHRISTY BROS: Agreement has been reached with R Hunt and Co, conditional on the approval of Christy and Hunt shareholders for the acquisition of Hunt's engineering business, including its freehold factory at Earls Colne, Essex, for £455,600 to be satisfied by the allotment to Hunt of 1.5 million new ordinary shares in Christy and a cash payment of £20,600 on completion. Agreement has also been reached with B and Q (Retail) for the sale of Christy's freehold factory premises at Chelmsford, Essex, for £953,000 net of selling expenses.

● VICTORIA CARPET HOLDINGS: Half-year to September 30. No interim div. (nil). Figs in £000. T/over 13,278 (10,784). Operating profit, before tax, 361 (150). Prospects for the remainder of the year continue to be uncertain although the company believes profits should be higher than last year, which would enable it to recommend an increased dividend payment for the year.

Minet Holdings, the insurance broker and underwriter, reported a £1.6 million increase in pretax profits at the nine-month stage, to September 30, to £17.6 million but the figure was affected by several factors. Reserving against irrecoverable debts cost £2.2 million, contributing six per cent to an overall 24.7 per cent expenses growth.

Increased costs, as well as poorer performance, produced a reductionin profits of £900,000 from the company's Richard Becket Underwriting Agency. There is also a contingent liability, related to the PCW underwritng agency, of £1 million. But profits have benefited by about £1.6 million from currency changes. Turnover rose £10 million to £57.2 million.

● STAINLESS METALCRAFT: Final 2.2p, mkg. 4.2p (2.2p) for year to August 31. Turnover (figs £000) 3,858 (3,740). Pretax profit 452 (901).

● MANSFIELD BREWERY: Interim dividend 2.25p (same) for 26 weeks to September 29. Figures in £000. Turnover 38,646 (36,378). Pretax profit 4,338 (4,240).

RECENT ISSUES

RECENT ISSUES	Closing Price
Access Satellite Int 5p Ord (150a)	184–2
Addison Comm 2p Ord (118a)	[illegible]
Alida Holdings 25p Ord (140a)	167
Appledore A & P 10p Ord (87)	[illegible]
Breakmate 10p Ord (100a)	[illegible]
CVD Inc Com Stock $0.01 (105a)	[illegible]
Candover Inv 25p Ord (180)	[illegible]
Checkpoint Europe 25p Ord (a)	[illegible]
Craton Lodge & Knight 1p Ord (115a)	[illegible]
Gabicci 5p Ord (78a)	[illegible]
Hawtal Whiting 5p Ord (197a)	[illegible]
Instem 10p Ord (145a)	[illegible]
Klark-Teknik 5p Ord (85a)	[illegible]
Media Technology 20p Ord (117a)	[illegible]
PSM Int 25p (140)	[illegible]
Penny & Giles 25p Ord (130a)	[illegible]
Plasmec 10p Ord (70a)	[illegible]
Shares Drug Stores 10p Ord (140a)	[illegible]
Stone International 20p Ord (125)	[illegible]
T & S Stores 5p Ord (a)	[illegible]
U D O Holdings 10p Ord (110a)	[illegible]
Wardle Storeys 10p (132)	[illegible]
Wates City of Lon Prop 25p Ord (100)	[illegible]
Williams (R) Leisure 5p Ord (20a)	[illegible]

Issue price in parentheses. a Unlisted Securities. * by tender.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Oil shares under pressure as index falls 12 points

By Pam Spooner and Cliff Feltham

Sterling wiped the Christmas heer from stock market prices esterday. The FT 30 share ndex dropped more than 12 oints as it slipped back from s peak to 930.3, and the icture was much the same cross a wide selection of hares. The FT-SE 100 index osed 13.4 points lower at 207.2.

The pound hit an all-time low gainst the American currency artly because of the extreme rength of the dollar but mostly ecause of oil price worries. erling lost ground against ost leading currencies.

The news was enough to ing early hangovers to City

WS International, the reinsurance broker which came to the arket in July, must please its areholders. Following half-ar figures this month – owing quadrupled profits of 191,000 – buyers have chased e shares, and pushed the price 465, more than double the 4p placing price. Jobbers say ere is very little stock around, though it is widely held; the ock Exchange accepted a acing of just 20 per cent of the mpany, instead of the usual per cent, because of this.

vestors, and the happy pre-ristmas mood which had evailed earlier this week soon sappeared.

Profits news from **Distillers** d **Grand Metropolitan** did thing to relieve the gloom, d the leading shares price pped lower throughout the y.

Oil shares took the brunt of knock down, with **British troleum** falling 11p to 470p, **terprise Oil** down 2p at 176p, **smo** 7p off at 313p and **Shell** p lower at 631p.

Prices were also damaged on gilts pitches, with as much £½ taken off Government cks at one stage. But business nains slack for the gilts llers, and prices later pulled k some of the losses to close out £¼ down.

Among second line equities es were generally lower, hough items of good news ped lift certain stocks.

ntervision Video, originally up by John Bentley and run e June as part of a board ke-up by entertainment impressario Jarvis Astaire, managed a 1p improvement at 11p. During the day a handful of sullen shareholders heard at the annual meeting of the "dramatic" slump in video sales leading to the warning of "substantial" losses for 1984 although no accounts have yet been published.

But Mr Astaire was attaching great hopes to the tie-up with CBS/Fox Video leasing cassettes to outlets such as garages, confectionery shops, and off-licences.

According to the chairman there are now nearly 1,000 such outlets paying £1 a week per cassette to Intervision – with benefits – as yet unspecified – due to flow during 1985.

But some shareholders at the meeting appeared somewhat unconvinced of the new direction, unhappy at the decline in fortunes of the USM company where the shares have fallen from a peak of 60p.

Sweeping boardroom changes at the almost unpronouncable USM viewdata equipment group Zyullyz ("zillicks") sent the share tumbling 8p to 15p. They were launched early this year at 50p.

Out goes managing director Mr Imre Lake and directors Mr John Barton and Mr Peter Kirby because of "differences over management philosphy."

Mr Barton and Mr Kirby are however carrying on with the company. But the shake-up heralds big changes in share stakes.

Stockbrokers are taking a gloomy view of profit prospects at Babcock International as the miners' strike drags on. Forecasts for full-year earnings are being cut, and yesterday the share price fell 5p to 148p. Some analysts now expect to see no improvement on 1983 profits of £34.1 million, while others hope the successful US businesses can take the strain of United Kingdom coal industry troubles and look for around £36 million against previous City estimates of £42.5 million.

Mr Lake is selling his entire shareholding and Mr Barton a large chunk of his which are being picked up by Tacitus, which represents an educational trust, to give it a 29.9 per cent stake, and the balance by a Lichtenstein foundation, Friski, which will hold 26.3 per cent.

Mr Jim O'Hara, one of the Tacitus consultants who steps in as managing director after earlier spells with Bowater and BPC, says the Stock Exchange is satisfied there is no tie-up between Tacitus and Friski. "I don't know who they are," he says. He says there is no question of compensation to the departing directors.

Process Systems, the US supplier of computer equipment, made a quiet debut on the London market and closed at its launch price of 92p after staying within a narrow band during the session. A total of 29.9 per cent of the company was offered for sale.

Despite the apparent rash of takeover activity by BAT Industries, stockbrokers are still looking for more share price growth for the tobacco-to-financial services group. Wood, Mackenzie reckons BAT will make profits of £1,225 million this year and £1,320 million next, and adds that, although short-term scope is limited, "We remain strong strategic buyers of the shares for continued long-term re-rating". Yesterday the share price held at 353p.

Dealings also got underway in **Kingsley and Forester** the Manchester textile group which came to the market through a reverse takeover of K. and O. Boardman. Placed at 62p, the shares reached 67½p before closing for a 4p gain at 66p.

Polly Peck was chased 8p higher at 222p ahead of publication today of the report and accounts. Profits have just jumped from £30 million to more than £50 million but still fell short of some City expectations. Chairman Mr Asil Nadir's review of his fruit to packaging and television empire is expected to cast an encouraging light on prospects in the present year and progress in some of its developing businesses. The company's brokers, L. Messel, has already said they are looking for around £80 million profits this year.

MJI Corporation, formerly Maurice James Industries, the waste disposal to property group, fell 4p to 11p after unveiling a pretax loss at the half time stage of £837,000 compared with a profit the same time before of £501,000. The interim dividend is passed.

Cleaning group **Brengreen** fell 2½p to 57½p following disclosure that Michael Ashcroft's Hawley Group had cut its shareholding to 11.8 per cent a little over a week after announcing it held a 14.9 per cent stake.

At that time Mr David Evans, the head of Brengreen, welcomed his new shareholder and suggested that "at the right price Evans and Ashcroft would make a formidable team in the cleaning business."

Last night there was no one available at Hawley to say whether reducing its holding ruled out any possibility of a get together between the two groups.

Ivory & Sime, the Edinburgh-based unit trust and investment fund manager, has reached a new share price peak of 92p, up 6p yesterday. Apart from satisfaction with last month's interim figures, the market is also looking at chances of a takeover bid for the company.

Britannia Arrow got some of the same treatment, the shares jumping 8p to 84p on hopes that a deal has finally been done at the United Kingdom Provident Institution. UKPI has 22.75 per cent of Britannia and has long been rumoured to be in the process of selling the stake to a potential bidder. London & Manchester Assurance also has an 8.5 per cent holding in the unit trust group.

Bestobell, the electronics and components maker, stays on the list of stock market bid hopefuls. The shares rose another 14p to 323p as speculative demand continues. Mr John Dowling, who was in charge at Henlys, the garage group, until the successful bid from Hawley Group and British Car Auctions, has moved into the chief executive position at Bestobell.

TEMPUS

Plagued GrandMet drops 25p

According to the market, it was hard to find anything attractive at all to say about Grand Metropolitan's full-year figures yesterday. Against original estimates of £370 million, the group struggled to generate £334 million, up just 13 per cent on the previous year. The shares fell 25p to 303p, thereby endorsing the last 12 months' chronic underperformance.

Some of the group's difficulties stem from the cigarette division. GrandMet's push to build up the generic cigarette business in the US was so successful that by mid-summer, the Liggett & Myers subsidiary was making about £50 million, more or less from scratch.

A mooted management buyout, worth some $325 million was then scuppered by the aggressive entry into the market of an undercutting tobacco major, BAT. The putative buyers withdrew as BAT's price war drove the GrandMet cigarette profits down to nominal levels.

Little relief, either for the cigarette division, or for Grand Metropolitan's gearing, can be expected from this quarter in the short term. Borrowings are still 54 per cent of equity.

But problems abound elsewhere. Consumers services profits fell some £6 million to £67.4 million, as the gaming side was hit by new and relocated casino competition throughout London.

Trading profits on foods effectively halved to £16.4 million, as milk overproduction led to cheese mountains which helped to slash margins. Brewing profits, it is true, improved by some 10 per cent, reflecting the group's brand strength and efficiency drive. But the improvement ranks nowhere near the 25 per cent profits advance by Bass.

In one sense, the vulnerability of Grand Metropolitan, when faced with a really determined major, like BAT, exemplifies a common problem. In the seventies, the group used gearing to move smartly into high cash flow but sleepy consumer sectors. But the sector majors have subsequently regrouped. Grand Metropolitan, however, is just too small in all areas to be a price maker. Meanwhile it is left with the debt to service – which must constrain its natural innovatory talents – and the problem, perhaps, of a rather dated identity.

BET

It seems that hardly a week has gone by this year without an announcement from British Electric Traction about an acquisition, disposal or some other restructuring of the group. This level of activity is indicative of the efforts of the new management to brighten BET's image and to knock the group into a more effective shape.

Those efforts now seem to be paying off and yesterday's interim pretax profits of £37.2 million up from £31.8 million reflected the strength of the core businesses in a period where there has been substantial changes in the group.

Providing Mr Robert Maxwell signs on the dotted line to complete his purchase of BET's cable interests this should signify the end of the main part of the restructuring. There is still, however, the vexed question of the takeover of Initial, at present in the hands of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, which might require a rethink of the strategy of the British laundry business if the bid is halted.

With the first stage of the BET renaissance completed the group's next task will be to demonstrate that it is capable of producing earnings growth. The group's propensity to finance acquisitions with its shares has resulted in earnings dilution and if the Initial takeover goes ahead there will be more to come.

In the long term the Initial acquistiton must be a good move for BET and investors must be patient about the earnings dilution.

In the first half, publishing profits leapt to £8.5 million from £1.9 million although £4 million of the increase came from property sales and acquisitions.

The shares have been rerated to reflect the improvement in BET's structure and strategy. Yesterday the price fell by 7p to 303p and it may well be that in the short-term there will not be much by way of growth.

On a longer term view another upward rerating can be expected providing BET provides some earnings growth.

M&G Group

M&G Group experienced one of the best investment years in its history in 1984 and increased its revenue from management charges, producing another good set of results. Pretax profits for the year to September 30 moved ahead 18 per cent from £6 million to £7.1 million compared with last year's 33 per cent surge. The company is giving shareholders a 25 per cent dividend increase, to 25p, which compares well with last year's exceptional one-third rise.

At the same time the group is seeking shareholders' approval to double the number of shares by capitalizing reserves, producing a share capital of £4.6 million. The object is to make the shares, currently at 700p, more marketable, but it will not disturb the major shareholdings – principally Kleinwort Benson's 32 per cent stake.

M&G's share capital and reserves rose from £20 million to £25.2 million over the year. £1.3 million of tax provisions was written back into reserves as a result of corporation tax changes.

The group saw a net increase of £300 million in units sold, to a total of £1.5 billion in its unit trusts. Its investment trust and pensions business also drew in new funds, but most impressive was the virtual doubling of M&G's single-premium life assurance business from £28.9 million to £43.3 million.

Shareholders can feel justifiably satisfied with earnings per share up 10p to 50.38p and net assets per share up from 218.7p to 272.9p.

English China Clays

English China Clays, as ever, poses the market a subtle rating problem, after reporting profits 37 per cent ahead at nearly £64 million. The shares rose 2p on the results to 258p.

The group, a leading supplier to the world's paper industry, has done well out of the consumer boom of the last 18 months. Volumes in the clay division rose by about 43 per cent to £45.8 million, with only marginal benefits from price rises.

Sadly, however, the Chancellor appears to have done rather better than shareholders from the bumper year. Changes in stock relief and Britain's capital allowances structure have boosted its tax charges by about 70 per cent. A £24 million provision for deferred tax has been charged direct to reserves, pushing gearing, on one calculation, up about seven percentage points to 29 per cent.

The dividend, in contrast, goes up by just under 10 per cent to 9.6p, a far slower rate of increase than the present industrial norm.

Enlish China Clays' accelerating market underperformance may therefore stem from bearish perceptions about the world industrial cycle, or from frustration at the dividend policy. But the rating certainly excludes perennial bid hopes against which the group considers it has new developed immunity. Lord Hanson, RTZ, *et al*, may feel otherwise.

ITV defends its future as Treasury eyes revenue

By Jeremy Warner

r since Lord Thomson made famous remark in the early s of the independent net-k about television being a nce to print money, the ustry has been trying to suade the public, politicians civil servants alike, that it is

t the moment, its protestors louder than ever. Early in new year the Government is to decide, after a five-th joint Home Office and sury review in consultation the Independent Broad-ng Authority, how to ge the exchequer levy on sion company profits.

e fear is that it will be ered with in such a way as educe the incentive for ty programming and rmine profits when the endent franchise holders facing enhanced compe-on the air waves and asked to make a huge tment in the risky future of broadcasting by satellite itain's DBS.

e worst the Government do, according to the try is to switch the basis of y from profits to revenue. at is what the Treasury who some fear hold the band on the review ittee, want.

Government has said whatever happens, the effect of the changes will oadly neutral. In other the £50 million or so the quer expects to raise this ial year under the present f 67 per cent of profits allowable expenditures "free profits slice" of 00 or 2.8 per cent of whichever is the greater, be raised by taxing ed advertising revenue of lion at the rate of 5 per f a revenue basis were d.

easy to see the attractions ch a system for the nment. Despite some fall he past couple of months, ising revenue has grown y, and at a rate that far s inflation, for many In 1981 it was 15.5 per igher than in 1980. The ear it grew by 14.1 per nd in 1983, by 17.5 per his year it is going up by n 14 and 15 per cent.

the other hand the take the exchequer levy has ted dramatically. Having 1 a peak of £57 million in r to March 1982 it fell to illion in 1983 and £23 in 1984 as Channel 4 ption costs, which are ble against levy, began to

there is a yet more nt reason for changing is of levy from profits to revenue. Treasury ministers believe the present levy mechanism encourages inefficiency, overmanning, excessive wages and management weakness in the face of union power. A revenue tax would force managements to look more to their cost structures.

This is an accusation vigorously denied by the industry. In a submission to the review group, the Independent Television Companies Association (ITCA) said: "The product we sell, advertising time, is particularly vulnerable to industrial action and unsold advertising time is even more perishable than unsold fruit. We maintain that our efforts in meeting industrial pressures have been at least as successful as others in similar situations."

Moreover, though there is little doubt that independent television inherited some of the worst excesses of the old British film industry, recent events have indicated a new "get tough" attitude in management.

Thames, often criticized as one of the industry's worst offenders, countered what its managing director Mr Bryan Cowgill, called the "tyranny of the blank screen" during a two-and-a-week technicians stoppage in the autumn, with a service put out by management and did not suffer too badly in the ratings as a result.

A tax based on revenue could have severe consequences for the already highly volatile nature of television profits. The profit margins of independent television companies, frequently in excess of 20 per cent before the introduction of Channel 4, are now running at little more than half that level. If the levy became a fixed cost, it would not require much inflation elsewhere to wipe out profits altogether.

Last Tuesday the ITCA met in plenary session with the BBC and five independents to discuss the present proposals for direct broadcasting by satellite. The 15 ITV companies are being asked to put up £200 million towards the project which envisages a three-satellite system operated jointly with the BBC and the five commercial companies.

There are loud mutterings that the whole scheme is not financially viable and significant changes were expected to be proposed at the meeting. Yorkshire Television's managing director, Mr Paul Fox says: "Tinkering with the levy system will certainly threaten the entire future of DBS."

Mr John Gatward, managing director of Television South, one of the newcomers to the network, is stronger still. "The future of DBS hinges on a combination of the BBC licence fee and levy review decisions. This is a highly successful industry with a unique regional presence. It should be encouraged – not taxed out of existence."

The most powerful argument the network has put forward in favour of the status quo is that a change to a revenue-based tax would threaten the future of creative programme making and the range and quality of programming on ITV.

The present system, by making programme costs offsettable against levy but any money earnt by selling the product overseas not chargeable for levy purposes, has created a powerful incentive for producing quality material for the network and helped make Britain into the second largest exporter of programmes in the world after the United States.

"Much of the work we have put into developing our production capacity over the last 12 years will be lost if there is significant change to the present levy system," says Mr Tim Knowles, finance director of HTV.

"Because of the high marginal rate of tax on profits, we have become a highly competitive industry in export markets and have been able to break into the States in a big way. We have created employment, opportunities and expertise in the regions, helped improve the standard of programme on the network and contributed overseas earnings. They surely do not want to kill such success."

Indeed, the Government does not and the present guess is that the review committee will try to come up with a new tax based on both profits and revenue which will attempt to combine the old alternatives for high-quality programming with the need to take a close look at other costs in ITV.

The industry does not regard this as an acceptable compromise. One senior ITV manager said, "Profitability and efficiency is not a matter for the Government. It is something that independent television company shareholders are quite capable of looking after. There is a growing feeling that just because the Government is going to clobber the BBC, they will clobber us as well".

The futures of the two are no doubt linked, but that is because broadcasting is a national asset and ITV, for all its shareholders, is part of the duopoly that controls it. Efficiency within broadcasting as a whole, not just the BBC is a legitimate area of the Government's concern.

THE TIMES Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page.

If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Your gain or loss
	BUILDING AND ROADS	
1	Marshalls (Halifax)	
2	Costain	
3	Meyer Int	
4	Galliford	
5	Amcliffe	
6	Bryant	
7	Laing (J)	
8	Tarmac	
9	Travis & Arnold	
10	Bett Bros	
	DRAPERY AND STORES	
11	Euim	
12	House of Fraser	
13	Forminster	
14	Goldsmiths Gp	
15	MFI	
16	Stanley (AG)	
17	Fine Art Dev	
18	Goldberg (A)	
19	Vantona Viyella	
20	Lee Cooper	
	INDUSTRIALS A–D	
21	BBA	
22	AIM	
23	Baynes (Charles)	
24	Black (Peter)	
25	Br Syphon	
26	Brolon	
27	Beecham	
28	Bridgend Process	
29	Bettson Clarke	
30	Berefords	
	BREWERIES	
31	Greenall Whitley	
32	Hardys & Hansons	
33	Wolvrhmptn & D	
34	Boddingtons	
35	Vaux	
36	Marston Thompson	
37	Greene King	
38	SA Breweries	
39	Guinness (A)	
40	Allied-Lyons	
© Times Newspapers Limited	Your Daily Total	

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £40,000 in tomorrow's newspaper

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Equities lower

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 10. Dealings End, Today. § Contango Day, Dec 24. Settlement Day, Jan 7.
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

THE TIMES Portfolio

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DAILY DIVIDEND

£2,000

Claims required for +21 points

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

1984 High	Low	Company	Price		Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
349	250	Gerrard Nat	312		−2	17.1	5.5	9.2
66	45	Guinness Peat	56		..	0.9	1.6	20.8
183	121	Hambros	153	●	−3	9.0	5.9	16.0
16	9	Do (50p)	£13	●	..	89.6	6.9	13.6
350	225	Hill Samuel	313	●	..	15.4	4.9	8.9
85	48½	HK Shanghai	84½		+¼	..b	..	..
313	228	Joseph (Leopold)	233	●	..	16.1	6.8	12.2
178	124	King & Shaxson	170		..	11.8	6.9	14.4
480	320	Kleinwort Benson	380		..	17.9	4.7	9.8
542	422	Lloyds	519		−6	34.9	6.7	4.4
63	49	Lon Scot Fin	54		..	3.8	7.0	10.5
42	24	Mercan	24		..	1.4	6.0	8.4
428	408	Mercury Secs	413		+5	16.4	4.0	8.6
429	277	Midland	338		−13	38.4	10.1	5.9
260	193	Nat Aust Bk	248	●	..	..	..	..
606	420	Nat West	582		−7	36.2	6.2	4.6
72	57	Ottoman	£69½		+½	450	6.5	10.6
198	144	Provident	190		+1	13.6	7.1	8.1
100	72½	Rea Bros	80		..	1.8	2.2	25.9
20⅞	14	Royl Bnk Of Can	£19½		+¼	..	..	..
249	194	Royl Bnk Of Scot	240	●	+2	12.1	5.1	8.5
906	625	Schroders	728		..	23.6	3.2	12.2
370	260	Secombe M	320	●	..	28.6	8.9	10.5
71	49	Smith St Aubyn	61		−1	6.4	10.6	6.8
679	442	Stand Chart	474		−10	40.0	8.4	6.6
783	612	Union	718		..	48.6	6.8	11.7
64	42	Wagon	64		+1	3.9	6.1	17.3
41⅞	27½	Wells Fargo	£40⅞		−½			
255	195	Wintrust	240		..	6.1	2.6	16.2

BUILDING AND ROADS

1984 High	Low	Company	Price		Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
202	168	Aberdeen Constr	182		..	9.4	5.2	9.2
258	185	Amec	256	●	..	15.0	5.9	10.4
78	38	Amcliffe	52		+2	..●		8.0
94	79½	Atwoods	83	r	..	5.0e	6.0	24.3
338	233	BPB Industries	278	●	−5	10.4	3.8	9.9
218	122	Baggeridge Brick	214		−2	8.9	4.2	9.0
168	78	Barratt Devs	82		−2	10.9	13.3	6.4
45	27	Bailey(Ben) Constr	26	●	−1	2.5	9.2	5.6
		Beechwood		f				
184	118	Bellway	130	●	..	10.0	7.7	8.7
78	53	Benford Concrete	70		..	5.4	7.7	15.9
64	43	Bett Bros	61		+1	4.1	8.0	13.4
603	346	Blockleys	570		..	30.0	5.3	14.6
499	358	Blue Circle	478		−7	27.1	5.7	8.0

BRITISH FUNDS

1984 High	Low	Stock		Price	Ch'ge	Int. only yld %	Gross Red. yld %
SHORTS (Under Five Years)							
105.41	100.77	Treas	15% 1985	100.78	+0.01	14.884	9.573
102	99	Exch C	12% 1985	100		11.946	10.036
97½	93¼	Treas	3% 1985	97		3.082	8.784
102	99½	Treas	11½% 1985	100	●	11.400	10.025
99	96	Treas C	9½% 1985	99		8.828	10.013

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

UNDATED

INDEX-LINKED

BREWERIES

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

CINEMAS AND TV

DRAPERY AND STORES

FINANCE AND LAND

FOODS

HOTELS AND CATERERS

INDUSTRIALS A–D

ELECTRICALS

E–K

L–R

S–Z

INSURANCE

LEISURE

MINING

MOTORS AND AIRCRAFT

NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS

1984 High	Low	Company	Price		Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
205	155	Fleet	194		−1	7.1	3.7	14.1
295	170	Haynes Publishing	285		..	17.1	6.0	15.9
178	135	Home Counties	140		+2	..	..	..
173	141	Independent	141		..	12.8	8.5	..
522	380	Int Thomson	512	●	−7	14.0	2.7	19.4
780	410	Link House	745		−15	28.4a	3.9	18.1
242	182	Liverpool	228		−1	16.8	7.4	10.8
500	388	News International	500		..	12.1	2.4	..
865	640	Octopus	840		−5	13.7	1.6	33.2
175	142	Portsmouth Sund	142		−1	5.7	4.0	7.3
348	285	Utd Newspapers	315		−5	20.7a	6.6	11.8
139	73	Websters	135	●	..	4.6b	3.5	16.0

OIL

OVERSEAS TRADERS

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERT'G

PROPERTY

SHIPPING

SHOES AND LEATHER

TEXTILES

TOBACCOS

A golden decade

Boom and bust points to a greater realism

By Michael Prest

Gold is still real money but the worldwide ebbing of inflation has made it more like a commodity

Only with the infinite wisdom of 20-20 hindsight can any gold trader claim to have anticipated the great bull market of the latter half of the 1970s. Mr Keith Smith of Mocatta & Goldsmid, one of the five leading bullion houses which constitute the London Gold Market, says flatly: "I did not expect gold to go to $850." Still less did anyone foresee the reaction which set in after 1980.

But the boom, which carried the price up relentlessly from an average of $125 an ounce in 1976 to an average of $612 – and a peak of $850 four years later – was the central act in the drama played out by the gold market over the decade after liberalization in 1974.

Public awareness of gold in all its manifestations became acute to the point of obsession. Far from being the Cinderella metal of the 1960s, gold was widely regarded as the thermometer of the financial system.

Its rise and fall closely track the dominant themes of the time: the accumulation and abatement of inflationary fears; floating currencies and the roller-coaster fortunes of the dollar; the search for investment havens; and even doubts about the very survival of the Western economy.

The consequences of the late 1970s are still with us and may have changed the market permanently. Gold is quoted daily by newspapers and wire services as a key economic indicator. The idea that gold should form part of a portfolio is commonplace, despite its recent dismal performance.

Huge quantities of gold are now in private hands and many more dealers are active in the market. And paradoxically, what then seemed to be a decisive argument for the restoration of gold in the monetary system – if not a gold standard – has turned out to be a case at least as strong for paper instruments.

The collapse of the gold price from 1975 to mid-1976 seemed an inauspicious start.

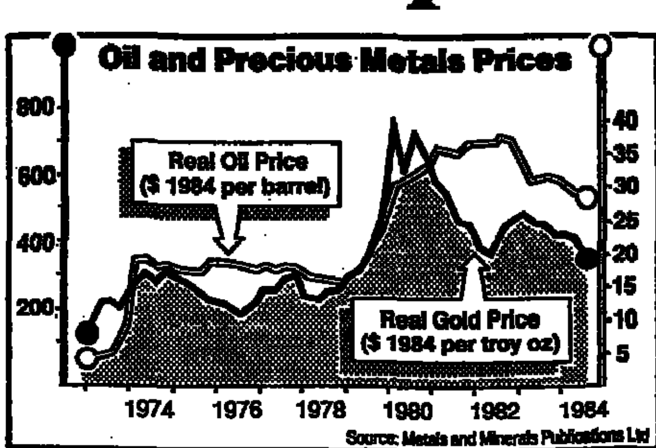
The impact of liberalization in America was seriously overestimated, Mr Robert Beale of Samuel Montagu, another of the London bullion houses, recalls: "The point about United States ownership of gold was that it didn't develop in the way people expected." In the event, both trading on Comex and bullion and coin purchases started slowly.

The disappointment was temporary. By the middle of 1976 all the forces which were to fuel gold's upward flight had assembled. Then and now the most important of these forces in the eyes of many participants and observers was inflation. Mr Reg Eccles of Metals and Minerals, a British consultancy, believes: "What the last 10 years has been about is wealth protection."

On the face of it, the evidence that people flocked into gold as a hedge against inflation is compelling. In Britain, the Retail Price Index rose from 127 in 1976 to 200.9 at the height of the gold boom in 1980, when British inflation was running at an annual rate of more than 20 per cent.

Average inflation among the members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the rich countries' club, was 8.6 per cent in 1976 and 12.9 per cent four years later.

Rapid inflation was outside the American experience and resurrected in the European collective consciousness dark memories of Weimar. As Mr Julian Baring, a partner with the London stockbrokers, James Capel, put it: "Gold is the ultimate money. Man has used it for centuries." The instinct to turn to gold as a safe harbour against the threatened inflationary hurricane ran deep.



Fear bred its own convictions. The idea that gold by some ineluctable process held its real value was much aired. By the height of the boom in 1979 and 1980, the idea had gained a semblance of credibility as nobody could fail – or so it seemed – to make quick, short-term profits.

In the bullion belt of America's south and west, billionaires believed in a quasi-religious way that Communism and hyper-inflation were nigh. From Puerto Rico the mysterious Aden sisters forecast that gold would reach $2,000. A few believed them.

Mr Lowell Mintz, at this stage chairman of Comex, vividly recalls the atmosphere which infected the professional and the unprofessional: "You had world-wide crazies, and by the same token you had some so-called experienced crazies."

The inflationary impetus behind gold was not entirely irrational. It was inevitable that a commodity whose price had been artificially restrained for so long should jump in value once freed of administrative constraints. And it was just as natural that gold should have been carried up with the general price increase. Other commodities behaved similarly and there was also an international boom in property.

Much the most persuasive analogy was with oil: there was an uncannily common price behaviour between gold and oil. What was not forecast then, except in the most general terms, was that oil and gold would subsequently decline in real terms as well.



Oil was impelled by the same price liberation and commodity response to supply and demand.

Oil was important for another reason. Part of the buying spree which began to push gold up from 1976 on emanated from the Middle East. The quadrupling of the oil price had flooded Arabia and Gulf with surplus dollars and Arabs were long accustomed to gold as money.

Mr Baring and Mr Smith place great emphasis on the impact of oil prices, not just in terms of the liquidity transfer, but also in terms of the change in Western psychology. Mr Baring recalls: "You only had to see them going in and out of the Swiss banks. They all wore white robes." Not for nothing was oil called black gold.

Arabs were not the only people with money to spare. The reaction of most industrial governments to the first oil shock was to print more money. Indeed, the course of money supply in the developed world might be a better analogy of gold prices than the inflation which the bigger quantity of money was supposed to cause. In any event, one result was that fast depreciating cash found its way into gold.

The clearest early example was Britain, a country whose long history of political stability and secure property ownership apparently militated against gold. But in 1974, in the aftermath of a stock market crash which took the FT Index down to 150, the British began buying Krugerrands insatiably. Eventually the Government was forced to impose import controls, but a succession of smuggling cases and value-added tax frauds pointed to a continuing interest in the coins.

The British bought Krugerrands because the coins were technically South African legal tender – otherwise the British were not allowed to hoard gold.

Other countries were not slow to buy Krugers, as they quickly came to be known, whether legally or illegally. Between 1970 and 1980, investors around the world bought more than 30 million ounces of the coins. Their convenience as portable wealth and the relatively low premiums compared with the many small bars which appeared on the market, allied to the low unit cost, helped to create a huge new private pool of gold holding, with immense long-term consequences for the market.

Mr Mark Collier, the London representative of Intergold, the South African marketers of Krugerrands, says: "It's been a major international success story in terms of the billions of dollars invested in gold." Apart from Britain, the main markets were Germany, Luxembourg, Switzerland, recently Hong Kong where the coins have begun to replace the traditional tola bar – and the United States.

When Americans finally caught gold fever, from 1977 on, they were very ill indeed. The United States is now by far the biggest market for gold in all its forms: bullion, coins and jewelry. What excited the interest was European trading of gold futures in Comex. As the gold price and the volume of bullion flowing into private hands rose, Europeans turned to Comex as the only futures hedge. It was a reversal of the tradition by which Europeans hoarded and Americans traded.

Trading volume on Comex picked up sharply as Americans saw the market's potential. Mr Mintz admits of Comex: "It went through quite a violent infancy. People weren't used to trading gold in this kind of environment."

As gold raced towards $850 on January 21, 1980, it was watched by officialdom with bemused disapproval. Throughout this period, the US Treasury and the International Monetary Fund were selling gold in an attempt to cool the market.

While the private sector was busy re-asserting its faith in the metal, the official sector was trying to de-monetize gold once and for all. The policy was partly based on Keynes' dictum that gold was a "barbarous relic". The authorities wanted the world to switch to the incomprehensible Special Drawing Right.

Mr Beale has an heretic interpretation of this episode. "I think that what made the popularity of gold in the late 1970s and got futures markets going was IMF and Treasury auctions." Far from deepening demand, the extra supply fed it. It is significant that Western gold mine production fell in the mid-1970s to its lowest for 20 years.

Even the fattest stomach fills up and by January, 1980, despite the queues in Hatton Garden and the run on jewellers, the game was almost up.

Within two years of touching $850, gold had collapsed to barely $350 an ounce. The brief spurt back up to $500 at the beginning of 1983 proved a false dawn. Gold is now so much out of favour with investors that there is gloomy talk of it falling far below $300.

Disenchantment, or perhaps greater detachment, is common. Mr Baring describes the market of the late 1970s as a "bandwagon". Mr Smith says: "It was fashion. Gold has no God-given right to be considered a hedge against inflation. It is just another hedge available to the fund manager." Big American commission houses such as Merrill Lynch, banks like Citibank and traders like Philip Brothers who plunged into gold trading have cut back their operations.

In some respects the market feels much as it did a decade ago. A low price means strong demand for jewelry and for other manufacturing such as electronics, but the absence of investment demand depresses the price further. Gold once again is behaving more like a commodity. The alternation between commodity and investment characteristics is another of the period's sub-plots. Mine production is rising quickly, a lagged response to events five years ago.

But as the dust settles, one can see some possibly permanent changes to the landscape. It is very hard to envisage much of the 2,600 tonnes of gold absorbed by the private sector drifting back into official hands. The "de-monetization" of gold is impossible, but by the same token, as Miss Louise de Boulay of Consolidated Gold Fields points out, the increased availability of gold renders the market less stable.

The second big change wrought by the 1970s is faster, more accurate and more public pricing. Futures markets, new technology and the public awareness of a global marketplace have swept away the private business of the 1960s. This, too, implies more volatile markets, regardless of the influence one attributes to futures trading.

What is striking is a paradox. The Vietnamese boat people, among others, proved that gold has lost none of its attractions for the politically fearful. Yet the obverse of the gold boom and inflation was the appearance of a new generation of financial instruments, such as interest-bearing accounts aimed at the private investor.

Gold has re-asserted itself, but the most enduring legacy may be the much greater sophistication of the investor and the instruments he chooses.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9½%
Adam & Company	9½%
Barclays	9¾%
BCCI	9½%
Citibank Savings †	10¾%
Consolidated Crds	9¾%
Continental Trust	9½%
C. Hoare & Co *	9½%
Lloyds Bank	9½%
Midland Bank	9½%
Nat Westminster	9½%
TSB	9½%
Williams & Glyn's	9½%
Citibank NA	9½%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

* 7 day deposits on sums of under £10,000, 6¼%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 7¼%; £50,000 and over, 8%.

BOXING

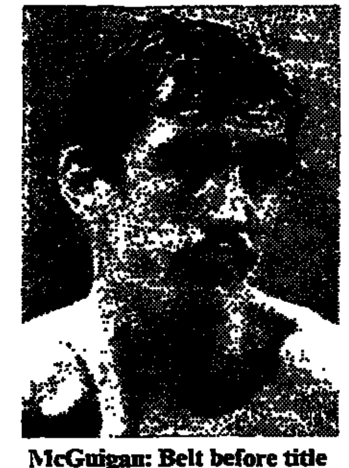
Sheriff Cowdell gunning for a showdown in his back garden

By Srikumar Sen, Boxing Correspondent

The showdown to start boxing fans shooting their mouths off could be at hand. The sheriff, as Pat Cowdell was depicted in the recent "Wanted" advertisement in *Boxing News*, may get his man, Barry McGuigan.

But the "reward" would have to be considerably higher than the £100,000 Cowdell's managers, Pat And Tom Lynch, have offered the Clones boxer. As McGuigan needs another successful title defence to make the Lonsdale Belt his own, his manager, B J Eastwood, said after Cowdell had knocked out Clyde Ruan, of Slough, in the fourth round at the Ulster Hall, Belfast, on Wenesday night: "Let Cowdell declare himself a featherweight and challenge Barry. But we don't want to be mucked around with sums like £100,000. Let us lodge £300,000 each with the board and the winner takes all. Barry wants the Lonsdale Belt even more than the world title and he is prepared to fight Cowdell in his back garden even."

After the Lynch brothers chewed over the implication of this confrontation, which could sell out a Midlands football ground and attract United States television, who are completely sold on McGuigan, they said yesterday: "We are calling Eastwood's bluff. We are ready to fight McGuigan for £300,000 in the Midlands, or we'll go to Belfast for £150,000 purse and fight McGuigan in *his* backyard."



McGuigan: Belt before title

At the end of next month the Irish will be heading south of their Rio Grande for Panama City to see Eusebio Pedroza, the WBA champion, defend his title against Jorge Lurjan on February 2 and make an offer to the winner, most likely to be Pedroza, to meet McGuigan.

"Barry is ready", Eastwood said. "1985 has to be the big year for McGuigan, even if I have to go into the lion's den". Eastwood has been chasing the legendary champion of Panama for nine months. But with every McGuigan victory Pedroza has taken two steps backwards and stuck his hand out for more money. "His terms have proved impossible", Eastwood said. "He wanted $600,000 tax free. I offered that. Still no good. He wanted to be a partner in the return fight if McGuigan beat him and $250,000 as well".

Eastwood will be accompanied on his trip by the managing director of Smirnoff, his sponsors, to back the offer to Pedroza. "If it comes off it will be the biggest thing in Irish sport," Trevor McClintock, the vodka-maker's managing director, said. But Eastwood cautioned that the world title bout would also need prime viewing in the United States in order to secure the deal.

That should not be too difficult, as Americans are avid followers of McGuigan, and United States television has offered to show the Irishman i action against one of three top-ranked boxers

Much will depend on whom McGuigan's agent, Mickey Duff, comes up with, but the chances are it will be the former world featherweight champion, Juan Laporte, of Puerto Rico. The bout will be at the King's Hall, Belfast, which will be packed, as usual, to the rafters.

McGuigan, however, has made one new supporter whom I am sure he will value highly. He is Clyde Ruan. "I have become McGuigan's fan," Ruan said after his unsuccessful challenge. "I thought he was a walk-in fighter. But he is like a ghost. You cannot find him where you want him to be. I am sure he will be world champion."

TENNIS: THREE OF SWEDEN'S TRIUMPHANT DAVIS CUP TEAM, PRODUCTS OF NATIONAL COACHING, WILL BE SEEN HERE IN JANUARY

Four young Swedes (from left) Sundstrom, Jarryd, Wilander and Edberg, keep concentrating as exemplified by their mentor, Borg

Fires lit by Borg are now burning strongly

There are lots of tennis coaches in Sweden. A chance meeting with one of them, on a bus in Göteburg bofore last weekend's Davis Cup final between Sweden and the United States, was by no means startling. Oddly, though, he turned out to be English. During our few minutes together it became evident that he found coaching in Sweden more gratifying than coaching in England.

"The game is more public over here", he said.

"You mean there are more public courts?"

"Not in the English sense. But anybody can walk into a club and play, as long as there is a court free. And it dosen't cost much".

"You and I could go and paly now?"

"No problem. We just have to find a free court".

The implications of that brief conversation became pertinent during the next two days. On paper the United States' team may have been the strongest they have ever had. But John McEnroe, Jimmy Conners and Peter Fleming were *given a collective hiding by* Mats Wilander, Henrik Sundstrom, both aged 20, and by the doubles team of Stefan Edberg (18) and Andrew Jerryd (23).

It took me back to an evening at Huddersfield in January, 1982, when Wilander and Jarryd – the latter joined by Hans Simonsson in the doubles – beat a more experienced British team (Mottram, Lewis and Feaver) in the King's Cup competition. Britain were sensible and steady and did not do much wrong. The Swedes were adventurous, sometimes wildly so, in going for their shots. They played as if aware that there was no such thing as unearned income. Points had to be won – and if that meant takeing risks, so be it.

This was a paradox because at that time Swedish tennis lay in the shadow of Borg, who was a counter-punching base liner until Wimbledon taught him the need to serve and volley. His successors learnt that lesson sooner because of a balding, mild-mannered avuncular Göteburg coach, Jon-Anders Sjögren.

In the 20 years after the war Sweden had five outstanding players including Lennart Bergelin, who was later to mastermind Borg's rise to the top. Sjörgen was not quite in their class. He rose to fourth in the national rankings but did not play in the Davis Cup competition.

Sjörgen, though, had been coaching since he was 16. When his playing days were over he became a businessman. "I worked with neon signs, club lighting, and all this. And I was coaching in the evenings. That is normal in Sweden. Then the Swedish Federation asked me to work with players up to the age of 18. After that I was King's Cup and Davis Cup captain for three years."

In 1981 Sjögren gave up the captaincy in order to manage a team of four players: Wilander, Jarryd, Simonsson and Joakim Nystrom – sponsored for two years by Siab, a construction company. Sjögren immediately took his players to Australia in order to improve their serving and volleying and, in general, make them more aggressive.

He taught them about strategy and tactics – in short, how to play matches – and he made them practice hard. He was helped by the fact that his charges were prepared to work and fight, rather than waste emotional energy on misconduct. They had the character to stay cool under stress.

"But they were still kids, so it was necessary to have some fun. We had a football game we played. But when you practice you have to be very serious, concentrated. I learned that from Bjorn. All these guys practiced with Bjorn some time and they knew he was always concentrating. To practice with Bjorn was fantastic."

"It became difficult to keep the team together. Wilander's ranking rose and for a time Nystrom's fell. The quartet could not always qualify for the same tournament and Sjögren could not be in two places at once. His dilemma was resolved when the Siab agreement expired, its purpose served. And Sundstrom, Edberg and others were climbing into the front rank.

Meantime, Roy Emerson was spending one week per year – he still does – teaching young Swedes how to play doubles. That was important in view of the Davis Cup and King's Cup competitions. It may or may not be a coincidence that Jarryd and a few others have become outstanding doubles players.

Even Borg, great player though he was, set the Swedes no example when it came to doubles play. Borg, though, was an inspiration in other ways. His achievements lit fires in the hearts of young Swedish athletes, attracting them to tennis. Local authorities were induced to *put money into court construction*, especially indoors. Commercial sponsors began to back a variety of coaching and development schemes. Borg made Sweden care about tennis. He created a hunger for the game – and for excellence.

Wilander, once champion of France and twice champion of Australia, has taken a new generation out of Borg's shadow – and Wilander is only marginally the best of a fine crop. Now Sven Davidson, one of the five big names of Sweden's post-war era, is in charge of an itinerant team of Swedish women. Perhaps he can do for the women what Sjögren did for the men. Meantime, back in Sweden, even the smallest towns have their clubs and coaches and special development programmes to help the young give substance to their dreams.

Rex Bellamy
Tennis Correspondent

Davis Cup victors Birmingham bound

Three members of Sweden's Davis Cup team which defeated the United States 4-1 in the final in Göteborg earlier this week, and two others who just missed places in the side, will be in action in the Belgian-American Young Masters Tournament at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, from January 2 to 6.

Mats Wilander, the Australian Open champion, Henrik Sundstrom and Stefan Edberg, who all played against the Americans, will be in this event for 21-year-olds and under which carries prize money of £160,000. So, too, will Joakim Nystrom and Thomas Hogstedt.

Two British players, Stephen Shaw and Stuart Bale, have entered the tournament, although the Lawn Tennis Association has not given approval to it because it clashes with the traditional World Doubles Championship at the Albert Hall.

DRAW: M Wilander (Swe), bye; S Giammalva (US) v S Shaw (GB); G Forget (Fr), bye; T Tulasne (Fr) v K Novacek (Cz); P Cash (Aus), bye; T Benhabiles (Fr) v R Brown (US); A Krickstein (US), bye; B Becker (WG) v S Bale (GB); J Brown (US) v G Holmes (US); S Edberg (Swe), bye; E Korita (US) v M Westphal (WG); J Nystrom (Swe), bye; E Sanchez (Sp) v M Mecir (Cz); L Pimek (Cz), bye; B Oresar (Yug) v T Hogstedt (Swe); H Sundstrom (Swe), bye.

● ADELAIDE: Tim Mayotte, of the United States, was fined $850 for an "audible obsenity" during his second round match against Jonathan Smith, of Britain, in the South Australian men's open championship yesterday (Reuter reports). The Grand Prix supervisor, Bill Gilmour, imposed the fine after Mayotte swore during his 7-6, 6-2 win on the centre court.

Mayotte was not warned by the umpire for the outburst, which came when a ban bounce cost him a point in the first set. Complaints from officials at the side of the court and members of the public prompted Gilmour to act. Mayotte, known "Gentleman Jim" for his exemplary behaviour at Wimbledon, said he was embarrassed about his outburst.

SECOND ROUND: T Mayotte (US) bt J Smith (GB), 7-6, 6-2; M Bauer (US) bt J Hlasek (Switz), 7-6, 6-3; J Fitzgerald (Aust) bt H Sands (US), 6-1, 6-3; S Perkiss (Isr) bt R Simpson (NZ), 6-7, 7-6.

● Sally Reeves defeated Elizabeth Jones 3-6, 6-4, 7-5 in the final of the Sunsilk Christmas tournament at the David Lloyd Centre yesterday (Lewine Mair writes).

Miss Jones played confidently in the first set but, at the start of the second, she lost some of her self-belief. Miss Reeves was soon 3-0 ahead and, though she lost the next four games, she was back on form when it mattered and clinched the set. At 5-5 in the third set, Miss Reeves, raised her game.

14-AND-UNDER FINAL: V Heath bt R Stokes, 2-6, 7-5, 6-2.

HOCKEY

Middlesex challenge at half-way

By Joyce Whitehead

Middlesex's superiority in the south is being keenly contested by Buckinghamshire. Each has 12 points at the halfway stage of their county championship group, the final rounds of which will take place at Bisham Abbey National Sports Centre near Marlow at the end of December.

In the north, Lancashire are in the lead with eight points, but the final result is still very much in the balance. Yorkshire lie second with seven points and Cheshire, the holders, third with six. Each has five matches still to play at their residential tournament at Lytham St Anne's from December 27 to 31.

Cambridgeshire have surprised everyone, including themselves, by being top of the east table after their two pre-tournament matches. They have eight points with Norfolk and Suffolk, the holders, two points behind. The east, with its eight counties, have a tidy table. Each has played twice and will play five times in four days at their tournament at the Eurosports village Shotley Gate near Ispwich.

The west, too, are at an interesting stage. Somerset, the championship holders, are lying second, two points behind Avon. Herefordshire, who rose from the depths last season, are holding their own, lying equal third with Devon.

Leicestershire, in the midlands, are the only team from the National Championship finals last season who are top in their territory. They have a lead of seven points on the four sides, tying for second place.

RACKETS

Dick recovers to reach final

David Dick (Harrow) reached today's final of the H. K. Foster Cup at Queens Club when he defeated the second seed, Etonian, Peter Baily 15-12, 15-12, 15-12 yesterday (William Stephens writes). Baily led 8-0 in the second game with the ball floating high around the walls like a partridge in a gusty wind. Dick regained control by steady application while Bailey was tentative.

The first seed, Rupert Owen-Browne (Tonbridge), defeated Simon Harford (Winchester) with clinical severity by *15-4, 15-5, 15-8.*

RESULTS: H K Foster Cup semi-finals: D G Dick (Harrow) bt P Baily (Eton), 15-12, 15-12, 15-12. R Owen-Browne (Tonbridge) bt S Harford (Winchester), 15-4, 15-5, 15-8. Incledon-Webber Cup (under-16 final): J Longley (Tonbridge) bt G N Lunt (Malvern), 15-0, 15-3, 15-4.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Kick-offs 7.30 unless stated

First division
Queen's Park Rangers v Liverpool (7.15)

Third division
Bournemouth v Orient

Fourth division
Crewe v Colchester
Rochdale v Chesterfield
Stockport v Darlington
Tranmere v Exeter

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Gainsborough v Worksop
FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Bristol Rovers v Ipswich (2.30).

OTHER SPORT

RACKETS: Public Schools Singles: Final (Queen's Club, 12.0).

OLYMPIC GAMES

Olympians due to get more gold

Britain could be refunded more than a quarter of the £1.2m it cost to *send their largest and most* **successful Olympic team to Los Angeles this year.**

The windfall follows an announcement in the United States that the organizers of the Games are prepared to pay for accommodation and certain other expenses of some of the 135 competing countries.

The Games made a profit of at least £180m and the amount being distributed could be around £5,860,000. "It is difficult to give an *accurate estimate of what* **we are likely to receive, but it could be £300,000 to £400,000," said Bob Watson, the British Olympic Association treasurer.**

"Whatever the amount – and it cost us £500,000 in living and operating in Los Angeles – it is good news. We have never been in such a sound financial position."

Charles Palmer, the BOA chairman, also welcomed the news of the refund, but added: "I would prefer the organizers to make a more accurate estimate of costs at future Games so that we don't have to find so much money in the beginning.

"It was very hard for us to raise the cash needed to send such a big team."

ICE HOCKEY

Sports Council blunder costs Dundee £6,000

By Robert Pryce

The failure of the British Ice Hockey Association (BIHA) to apply for grants to the Sports Council of Great Britain has cost the Dundee Rockets, its champion club, about £6,000 in the last 15 months. The sum represents the grant aid the club was entitled to for travel to the away legs of European Cup ties.

"I am appalled," Tom Stewart, the Dundee chairman, commented yesterday. "The BIHA told us on both occasions that we do not qualify for grants. Their negligence has lost us about £6,000, which is a lot of money for any club in this sport."

Mr Stewart calculates that Dundee spent over £11,000 on travel and overnight accommodation in playing European Cup games *against Rodorre, of Denmark, last* **season and Megève, of France, last October.**

Champion clubs in ice hockey and other sports are entitled to Sports Council grant aid of 75 per cent of *the* **travel costs for European Cup ties. The sport's national governing body would apply for the sum as part of its international travel grant. Grants cannot be made retrospectively.**

"I was not aware that Dundee were eligible", Frederick Meredith, President of the BIHA, said yesterday. "The forms we have specify only national teams."

Games venue chosen

Mexico City (AFP) – The 1987 Pan-American Games will be held in Indianapolis. Mario Vazquez Rana, the president of the Games' governing body, confirmed here.

RUGBY UNION

When coaching leads to a uniform style

By Gerald Davies

The Australians have left British rugby nursing something of an inferiority complex. "What if our approach to coaching is wrong", asked Northampton's Don White, at last week's after match function in Cardiff. He appeared comfortable genial in a way he could not possible have looked to his opponents at the bottom of a ruck.

He had had to confront himself, he said with that question over three decades ago when, as a great captain of the formidable Northampton club of those days, his team, based around a powerful pack, came up against Bleddyn Williams' free running Cardiff. After the defeat White admitted that he had to reconsider his ideas and that there might be another way to play.

The question no longer applies, as it did then, simply on a local level. It has far wider implications. Since those times when Ehite and Williams could quite happily have applied their ideas independently of each other, and with equal validity, the game, in fact, has changed very little. The laws have been tinkered with so that with each passing law which seems to quicken up the game, in time, some other aspect, with the players' or the coaches' contrivance, will be found to slow it down. The swings and roundabouts apply in rugby as in much else.

What has had a significan effect *on the game in this counury is, oof* course, the development of coaching at all levels. This has, generally, been for the good. The difficulty now is that it has become so conventional and institutionalized. Basically, whatever happens in Hawick, will more than likely be repeated in Haverfordwest, from Fylde to Falmouth, from Selkirk to Skerries.

This could be of help, it could be argued, in that players from each of *these places could fit in with the* others, if called upon at any time. There is a common bond of understanding, as it were.

But, in fact, the Lions have been less than impressive in the last three tours and all sorts of excuses were found for those failures. But more worrying is the fact that now each country in turn has had defeats inflicted on it in no uncertain manners. "But what if," asks Don White, "we are wrong?"

Then, in his unstated answer to his own question, we are all wrong. Style is not a standardised matter. It is the rugby unions and their coaches who address themselves to Don White's question who are likely to reap the rewards.

Colts will have to prove they are thoroughbreds

Schools rugby by Michael Stevenson

Schools rugby is judged in some quarters entirely on the showing of the first XV, but this attitude is, to some degree, short-sighted. Take the Ley's, Cambridge, for example. Their under-15 colts played 13 matches and won them all, scoring 492 points and conceding only six. Ellesmere College, from Shropshire, won 20 and drew one of the 21 matches played by their under-16 and under-14 sides, jointly scoring 588 points to 30. It will be interesting to see if these two schools progress to comparable success when these promising players are in the first XV.

Lancashire, always a force to be reckoned with at 18-group level, entrtained Warwickshire at Blundellsands and lost a lively contest 12-7 after leading by seven points. Speed around the field and hard, disciplined forward play proved *crucial in Warwickshire's victory.* Lancashire have since drawn, 8-8 with Cumbria.

The Royal Grammar School, Guildford, have enjoyed a wonderful run since half-term, with seven victories including wins over Christ's Hospital (13-7), Wimbledon College (13-3) and Reigat Grammar School (10-0). Their only loss was against the formidable New Zealand tourists, Te Aute College, who had previously beaten a Wellington and Radley combined XV (27-9). The Royal GS's 15-0 defeat was no disgrace.

Te Aute, the New Zealand schools' champions, will meet mostly club colts sides and are also playing against the Scottish Schools' XV, before departing for Holland and Paris.

Reigate G S have enjoyed a successful season with 10 wins and three losses, their most recent victories being against Latymer Upper (17-0) and Judd (15-3), who had not previously been beaten.

Armidale School, from New South Wales, coached by the former Australian scrum half, John Hipwell, ended their tour with a convincing victory over Sevenoaks (18-0) to register their fifth win in eight matches.

Colts semi-finals

Devon meet Kent at Barnstaple, on Saturday, January 5 and Lancashire play the North Midlands at Waterloo the following day in the semi-finals of the Rugby Union colts championship. The final, for the National Westminster shield, is on January 19.

Malik loses captaincy

Tomorrow was to have been a day of celebration for Mal Malik, the Coventry captain. He was to play his 200th game for the club but, instead, he has been dropped.

Malik remains cool about the humiliation. "It's up to me to play my way back" he says. "I am not playing well, perhaps because of the worries of captaining a struggling team."

The inquest on Saturday's 58-12 defeat at Gloucester – the second heaviest in Coventry's history – lasted more than three hours and, when the selection committee go to the flank forward position, Malik offered to leave the room. "The important thing is that it shows that the club captain's place is open as the rest and that is how it should be" Malik added.

Mick Trumper, a Shropshire man, gets his place – one of three changes in the pack. Graham Robbins is fit to resume at number eight while Brian Kidner, the England under 23 lock, regains his place.

Davis in fine form

Davies back without his partner

Mike Watkins, the Wales captain, is included in the national squad for the international championship despite stories circulating in Wales that he is contemplating retirement. Watkins and the other 14 members of the Wales side beaten 28 – 9 by Australia at Cardiff earlier this month, are restored to the squad.

Gareth Davies is included in the squad for the championships for the first time since being dropped in 1982. The Cardiff stand-off half, kept out of the side for the match with Australia by Swansea's Malcolm Dacey, has shown outstanding form for his club. Davies enhanced his chances of winning back his place with polished displays for Cardiff and the Barbarians against the Wallabies.

However, his half back partner at Cardiff, Terry Holmes, who has recently resumed playing after dislocating a shoulder, has been omitted.

SQUAD: Fullbacks: M Wyatt (Swansea), H Davies (Bridgend). Wings: M Titley (Bridgend), E Rees (Neath), P Lewis (Llanelli), A Hadley (Cardiff). Centres: R Ackerman (London Welsh), L Jones (Pontypool), M Ring (Cardiff). Stand-off halves: M Dacey (Swansea), G Davies (Cardiff). Scrum halves: D Bishop (Pontypool), R Giles (Aberavon), M Douglas (London Welsh). Props: I Stephens (Bridgend), J Whitefoot (Cardiff), I Eidman (Cardiff), P Francis (Maesteg). Hookers: M Watkins (Newport), W James (Aberavon). Locks: J Perkins (Pontypool), R Norster (Cardiff), H Richards (Neath), K Moseley (Pontypool). Flankers: A Davies (Llanelli), R Moriarty (Swansea), D Pickering (Llanelli), G Roberts (Cardiff). No. 8's: E Butler (Pontypool), P Davies (South Wales Police).

Unfit Mills is chosen to lead S West

Steve Mills, the England hooker, was amazed to learn yesterday, that, although he was still suffering from a serious neck injury, he had been named to lead the South West against Romania at Gloucester on New Year's day.

Mills said that his injury was known to the England selectors Derek Morgan, (chairman) and Jack Rowe, (south-west regional coach) during a national scrummaging session on Monday evening. The Gloucester hooker said he told them then that he would not be match-fit for at least another fortnight. The divisional selectors, nevertheless, picked *him* as captain for the Romanian game in a team showing only one change from the side who drew 12-12 with Australia two months ago.

TEAM (Bath unless stated): C Martin; D Trick, A Rees, J Palmer, A Swift (Swansea); S Barnes, R Harding (both Bristol); G Chilcott, S Mills (Gloucester, captain), A Sheppard (Bristol), J Orwin (Gloucester), N Redman, M Teague (Gloucester), R Hesford (Bristol), R Spurrell.

Replacements: S Hogg (Bristol), R Hill, S Halliday, K Bogira (Bristol), P Blakeway (Gloucester), N Pomphrey (Bristol).

MOTOR RACING

Rome's streets built for racing

By Richard Williams

A grand prix through the streets of Rome will be part of the 1985 formula one world championship, the international motor sport federation (FISA) announced yesterday. Giving details of revisions to the championship calendar, FISA confirmed the cancellation of the Dallas Grand Prix and informed the German authorities that they have until January 31 to decide whether their 1985 race is to be held at Hockenheim or on the new *Nurburgring circuit.*

The European Grand Prix, to be held in Rome on October 13 as the fourteenth event of a 16-race series, will be the city's first formula one race in the modern era. An Italian daily sports paper, *La Gazetta dello Sport*, has already given details of the proposed circuit, laid out around the roads of the district known as Esposizione Universale Romana, which was planned before the war by Mussolini as "a *permanent exhibition of the glories* of Rome" and completed later as a satellite city, with lakes, parks, broad boulevards and striking contemporary architecture.

The track, 3.78 km in length, is to be laid out around a large sports hall, *making use of the width of the* Via Cristoforo Colombo, a dual carriageway. The projected plan indicates a hairpin bend at each end of the circuit and several artificial chicanes. A computer has calculated that the average speed for a formula one car will be in the region of 95 mph, with a top speed on the straights of 155 mph.

In charge of planning for the race, which is being backed by the Automobile Club of Rome, is Maurizio Flammini, a leading Formula Two driver in the early 1970s.

Elsewhere on the revised world championship calendar, the date of May 19, traditionally reserved for the Monaco Grand Prix remains vacant, and yesterday the international automobile federation (FIA) announced a special meeting on February 19 to consider the expulsion of the Monaco Auto*mobile Club as a consequence of its* dispute with FISA.

Jean-Marie Balestre, executive president of the FIA and president of FISA, stressed that expulsion was by no means certain and said that Monaco would be free to hold a non-championship race on the May date. Bernie Ecclestone, owner of the Brabham team and president of the Formula One Constructors' Association, confirmed that the teams he represents would be willing to take part in such a race.

REVISED CALENDAR: April 7: Brazil (Rio de Janeiro); April 21: Portugal (Estoril); May 5: San Marino (Imola, Italy); June 2: Belgium (Spa-Francorchamps); June 16: Canada (Montreal); June 23: Detroit; July 7: France (Paul Ricard); July 21: Britain (Silverstone); Aug 4: Germany (Nurburgring or Hockenheim); Aug 18: Austria (Zeltweg); Aug 25: Netherlands (Zandvoort); Sept 8: Italy (Monza); Sept 29: New York; Oct 13: Grand Prix of Europe (Rome); Nov 3: Australia (Adelaide); Nov 16: South Africa (Kyalami).

● The prospect of the Monte Carlo Rally taking place on schedule next month brightened yesterday when a French court ruled in favour of the orgainizers in a conflict which has threatened the event (Reuter reports). The Council of State, France's supreme court, backed the Monaco Automobile Club in its refusal to pay one million francs (£91,000) to the French Motor Sports Federation (FFSA) for use of French territory and back-up services. The court ruled the FFSA had overstepped its authority in making the unprecedented demand.

David Hart

Validity of rule change questioned

By John Blunsden

The decision by a French court this week to suspend all sanctions against the Tyrrell Formula One team by the sport's ruling body in respect of the 1984 world championship may cast into doubt the validity of changes to the Formula One regulations agreed during Tyrrell's suspension towards the end of the season.

In particular, it reinforces the feeling that the team's exclusion from the championship came at a convenient time for all the other teams, who, in the light of considerable fuel consumption problems with their turbocharged engines, were seeking to retain the 220-litre fuel-tank limit for a further year *instead* of adopting the previously agreed reduction to 195 litres for 1985.

Ken Tyrrell alone was resisting this short-notice rule change, which required the unanimous agreement of all signatories to the Concorde Agreement (made between the constructors and the governing body) for it to be effected. Only after his team's removal from the championship could the necessary unanimity be claimed, and the rule change was endorsed within hours of this occurring last July.

The granting of the injunction (against which the international automobile federation, the FIA, have until January 2 to lodge an appeal) *throws into question* the validity of the contentious rule change, which would seem to require Tyrrell's approval in order to establish its legality. If he has secured a source of turbocharged engines for 1985 in place of his three-litre Ford Cosworth power-units – and like all other teams he has until January 31 formally to announce his choice of drivers, cars and engines for the 1985 championship – his resistance to the retention of the 220-litre limit may well have evaporated.

But he has already indicated that he has no wish to act in any way which would be detrimental to the smooth running of the sport or would jeopardize the arrangements of other teams. This suggests that he would not wish to withhold his endorsement of the rule change, but in return he would doubtless be seeking acceptance of his contention that the FIA acted illegally according to their own rules in exluding him from the 1984 world championship.

Meanwhile, he has exercised his option to renew his contract with Martin Brundle and Stefan Bellof (whose points scores are also provisionally reinstated) for 1985 and the Tyrrell team will be taking part in the Formula One test programmes

Tyrrell: approval needed

SKIING

Miss Figini is youngest and fastest

Santa Caterina, Italy (AFP) – Michela Fignon, the Olympic champion, set the fastest time in practice here yesterday for today's women's World Cup downhill race.

Miss Figini, the youngest woman ever to win the Olympic *downhill* gold medal when she was 17, set a time of 1min 25.94sec, 34 hundredths of a second faster than her Swiss compatriot, Ariane Ehrat, and Marina Kiehl, the World Cup leader.

Both training runs were held yesterday after heavy snow made practice impossible on Wednesday. Sieglinde Winkler, of Austria, was fastest on the first run, in 1min 27.01sec, with Miss Fignon twelfth fastest, more than two seconds slower than her later time.

● Berne (Reuter) – A women's downhill race planned for Altenmark, Austria, on Wednesday has been re-scheduled for Bad Kleinkirchheim on January 9, because of the lack of snow.

The Altenmark downhill is one of several World Cup events to fall victim to unseasonally warm weather this season. FIS said the two men's downhills planned for today and tomorrow in Bormio, Italy, but called off because of lack of snow, would not be held until next month.

Cricket: Somerset spin cooks the Indian goose and enables England to quicken their run-up to Christmas in a foreign land

Marksmanship of highest order triggers collapse

Gauhati (Press Association) – ...ic Marks produced his best ...owling performance on tour in ...dia to set England up for a ...ick victory over East Zone ...re. The Somerset off spinner ...ok four wickets in the space of ... balls, at a cost of only eight ...ns, to send East Zone tumbling to 117 all out. They were ...rced to follow on 173 behind ...ngland's 290.

When dusk closed the second ...y seven minutes early, East ...ne were one without loss. On ...urning pitch it is difficult to ... them surviving two complete days' play to avoid a ...avy defeat.

Marks struck in mid-after...

ENGLAND: First Innings

...owler, c sub, b Kumar	114
...Moxon, c Jayaprakash, b Doshi	[illegible]
Lamb, b Jayaprakash	[illegible]
...Gatting, c Lal, b Kumar	[illegible]
...Cowdrey, [illegible]	[illegible]
Marks, b Kumar	[illegible]
Edmonds, run out	[illegible]
Downton, c Dubey, b Kumar	[illegible]
...French, b Doshi	[illegible]
Foster, not out	[illegible]
Cowans, c Bhardwaj, b Kumar	[illegible]
Extras [illegible]	15
Total	290

FALL OF WICKETS: [illegible]

BOWLING: [illegible]

EAST ZONE: First Innings

[illegible]	[illegible]
Total	117

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-26, 3-69, 4-69, ..., 6-83, 7-85, 8-108, 9-112, 10-117.

BOWLING: Foster, 10-4-14-1; Cowans, 9-2-18-...; Edmonds, 33-16-25-2; Marks, 29-11-48-4; ...ng, 4-1-4-1.

Second Innings

...bey, not out	1
..., not out	0
Total (no wkt)	1

BOWLING: Foster, 1-0-1-0; Cowans, 1-1-0-0.

...alls and wides debited to bowlers.


Marks: his off-spin skittled out the stars of the East

...on just as a 43-run third-wicket partnership between the former Indian Test opener, ...un Lal (42), and Ashjit Jayaprakash (16) was beginning to frustrate the visitors.

In seven previous weeks on tour Marks has claimed only ... wickets at a cost of 239 runs in 84 overs. Yesterday he ...bled that tally by bowling Lal and then accepting a sharp return catch from Anil Bharadwaj two balls later.

He followed up by bowling Jayaprakash and, when he tempted Amal Das into edging a catch behind, East Zone has crashed from 69 for two to 83 for six.

England ruthlessly took the new ball as soon as it was due and, with Norman Cowans quickly taking two wickets, East Zone's tail folded.

Earlier yesterday England's first innings was wrapped up in 20 minutes. Resuming at 277 for eight, they added only 13 more runs before losing their last two wickets. Twelve of them were scored by Neil Foster who took his tour average to 86

East makes the stuffed shirts go west

Simon Barnes

England have won a Test match again, at last, thank the Lord, and thanks also to a pair of aged-in-the-cask spin bowlers, so what better thing to do than to have a Christmas pint in front of the fire at the Red Lion, East Bergholt, there to talk cricket with the landlord, one Ray East, a spin bowler of similar vintage to our match-winners but with a reputation for unbridled eccentricity, reinforced by his delightful little book, *A Funny Turn*.

East, often a match-winner for Essex, and captor of the final wicket in their championship-winning season, keeps insisting that he has retired, is coaching, captaining the second XI, and playing for the first team "in dire emergencies only". Of course, he never played for England. Partly, there was Underwood, another lofty left-armer, and partly, of course, there was East, and his dreadful habit of mucking about, taking the field in an overcoat, playing dead, always the first to break the cathedral hush of cricket.

Not even a hat-trick for The Rest against England was enough to win him a Test place. The day after that feat, he and John Lever bumped into a selector, Alec Bedser, in the hotel lift, and were greeted cordially: "Good morning Ray, good morning Peter."

There was always the feeling that East was never quite serious enough. So it goes: there is an awful lot of dull cricket being played. "The West Indians grinding the opposition relentlessly into the ground – it begins to pall, doesn't it? There will come a time when people wonder why they bother to have those three little sticks at each end. Since the target is obviously the batsman's body."

"I am always rather startled when a cricket professional says something that I, a cricket watcher, agree with. Professional sportsmen always have a totally different attitude to their game, no matter what it is, from the rest of us. One would only have to overhear a morning conversation between East and his Essex spin partner, Acfield, to be convinced of that: "Splendid weather, David."

"Marvellous, Raymond. Simply marvellous."

Which means that it is pouring with rain. Blasphemy on blasphemy, weather that would make a club cricketer weep is welcomed with open arms by people who not only play every day, but get paid for it, too. But the clubbie forgets that one of the great joys about working is not working, and cricket is work – "enjoyable, yes, but still work". Professional cricketers live on motorways and in hotels, playing seven days a week. Is it, then, surprising that they care not so much about the nuances and the intriguing little moral dilemmas as about winning? And winning alone?

"If you are winning, it is easy to keep your enthusiasm up. It is winning that keeps you going. But there comes a time when you stop enjoying it, even when you are winning. And that is partly why I retired.

"I have been a professional cricketer for 18 years, and I have seen the game change a hell of a lot. It has become a lot more competitive – a lot more – and I don't know how good a thing that is. The idea is to win at all costs. It used to be true that most cricketers walked when they got a touch. These days some captains instruct their players not to walk, to leave it to the umpire. I have always walked myself."

East bemoans the modern obsession with pace, believes that spectators like to see a top spinner take on a top batsman (and I have heard West Indians calling for Abdul Qadir, beseeching: "Bring on the magic man"). But he added: "I'd love to come back as a fast bowler, you know. As a slow bowler batting eight or nine, you're the prime target for bouncers. You're not going to bounce back, or hit centuries off them, either. You just stand there.

"The bouncer is a legitimate weapon, but it used to be used by people like Trueman as a reminder. Trueman always tried to get me out – not knock me out. It is hard, but the umpires must enforce the rule on intimidatory bowling."

It is a hard game, professional cricket. If you play for your country you are never out of an aeroplane, if you play for your county, you are always in a car. Hotel living is always ghastly. When you play the game, huge men hurl lethal missiles at you, even if they know you can't bat, bitter sledging is a part of life, and above there, there is the relentless pressure to perform, to win, every day of the long summer.


East: sees fun in the game

It is not surprising that cricketers pray for rain, not surprising they have a different attitude from those of us who merely enjoy the game. And those players who can relieve some of those pressures for their colleagues, who can communicate the player's still extant zest and enjoyment of the game to the spectators, who can remind players and public that cricket really is supposed to be fun – these men are to be revelled in.

That was why I went for a Christmas pint in East Bergholt. To drink a toast to cricket as it should be.

VOLLEYBALL

Telford face their big brothers in stern test

By Paul Harrison

The cup fighters of Telford Spikers, of the second division, having already beaten two first division sides on their way to the quarter-finals of the Royal Bank Cup in Scotland, now face their sternest test.

They have been drawn to play MIM, the reigning league champions and for long the dominating force north of the border, on February 17. MIM will not be underestimating Spikers, neither will they be short of information about them: Spikers are MIM's reserve side.

The side are coached by John Lyle, who was in charge of MIM last season. Lyle played for more than three sets of the five-setter last weekend in which Spikers defeated KAs, who are bottom of the first division, to move into the quarter-finals. The set score went 17-15.

The important league match on Sunday between VOLVO TRUCKS, the leaders, and MIM, who have games in hand, was postponed because of fuel shortages in schools in Ayrshire. Because of the miners' strike, there is not enough coal to heat school halls at weekends.

In the English league, sponsored by Bhivic, Redwood Lodge had their hopes dented with defeats at Leeds and Liverpool. Speedwell Racanor won at Poole to stay four points clear, while Team Mizuno beat Liverpool 3-2 to stay second.

All, however, are looking over their shoulders at Capital City Spikers, who are back in business concentrating on retaining their league title after their European experiences. They beat Manchester 3-0 at the weekend, and have games in hand on the teams above them. Expect some New Year's resolution from them.

Ivo Tennant celebrates the birthday of Hanif Mohammad

The man who could turn a day into a year reaches a slow 50

Hanif Mohammad, who is 50 today, was one of the finest defensive batsmen cricket has known. He holds a number of extraordinary distinctions: the highest score in the history of the game, 499; the slowest triple hundred (and the longest innings on record); the slowest double hundred and two of the six longest hundreds in Test cricket.

Thus there were days and years, and some days that seemed like years, when Hanif's batting did not befriend the uncommitted spectator. Even at Lord's he once spent 195 minutes eeking out 20, and, anothertime, took nine hours two minutes over 187.

Yet Hanif was a feared opponent. He was also, at one time, a batsman with all the strokes. When he came to England with the Pakistan side of 1954 he punished bouncers and drove through the covers with clinical ease. It was because his country was so dependent on him to produce big scores that in later years his attacking instincts clammed up.

Hanif grew up in a family that was to become famed in the world of cricket. Three of his brothers, Wazir, Mushtaq and Sadiq, played for Pakistan: a fourth, Raees, was a provincial player. Hanif's son, Shoaib, is a current Test cricketer. At one stage the Pakistan side contained three Mohammads.

Small and wiry, Hanif had established himself as an opening batsman of the highest class before he attained his nineteenth birthday. Mushtaq, when 15, became the youngest cricketer to play in a Test; Hanif himself had reached the ripe old age of 17 when he made his Test debut on the 1952-53 tour of India.

He had in those days "the germ of cricketing greatness about him", as John Arlott put it. He enjoyed his batting and probably still did when his colleagues rather selfishly suggested that his sound technique, allied to fierce concentration, would make him an ideal sheet-anchor and allow them to go for their shots.

Hanif's qualities were never put to better use than in the Caribbean in 1957-58. At Bridgetown, Pakistan followed on 463 runs in arrears and Hanif occupied the crease for 16 hours and 39 minutes, the longest innings ever. His 337 fell just 27 short of the then highest Test score, Len Hutton's 364.

Back home, Hanif added the highest individual score in a first-class match. His 499 was made for his club, Karachi, against Bahawalpur. He might well have passed 500 but for a scoreboard error. He had been credited with 496 and two or three minutes of play remained. In trying to steal the strike and face the last over he was run out. It was only on returning to the pavilion that he discovered his score and that he could have afforded more patience.

In all, Hanif played for Pakistan in 55 Tests, captaining them 11 times. His aggregate of 3,915 runs at an average of 43.98 is approached only by Majid Khan and Mushtaq among his countrymen. His 12 centuries included two off England in the Dacca Test of 1961-62.

Hanif is still based in Karachi, where he is cricket manager of Pakistan International Airlines and a radio summarizer of Test matches.

His interests have never strayed far from the game, which is doubtless one reason why he remained at the crease for such lengthy periods. He has been dubbed with several nicknames, but the one that stuck and suited him best was "The Master".


The nine-hour wonder bat that was Hanif at Lord's

IN BRIEF

Smoothing the path for riders

Emerging show jumping countries, including South Africa, are to receive a £40,000 a year sponsorship from the Tarmac company. Tarmac, who are based in the Midlands, have switched to show jumping after 16 years' association with motor racing.

HOCKEY: The New South Wales Koalas, the Australian state indoor champions, are taking part in the three-day annual Roses indoor tournament, sponsored by West 'N' Welsh, at Southwold Sports Centre, Yate, near Bristol (Sydney Friskin writes). The programme starts at 4.30 pm today with Slough, the defending champions facing their old rivals, Beckenham. The final will be played at 4.45 pm on Sunday.

RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS: The sport in Britain will receive an encouraging boost during 1985 from a new £10,000 sponsorship at grass roots level. New Zealand Lamb will support not only the British senior and junior championships and its preliminaries but also a new national grades competition.

Indians seek to heal rift

...elhi (Reuter) – The Indian ...ket Board has summoned Sunil ...askar, the captain, and Kapil ..., the former captain, for a ...ting in an attempt to diffuse the ... which is threatening the unity of ... Test team.

The meeting, originally scheduled ... December 22 has been postponed ... three days to allow all the ...ctors to be present. It will now ... place in Nagpur on Christmas ... in the presence of all five Test ...ctors.

The disagreement broke out ...ier this week when Kapil Dev, ... has made 66 consecutive Test ...earances, was dropped from ...a's side to play England in a one-day match on December 27 and also for the third Test in Calcutta.

N. K. Salve, the board president, said the meeting would try to restore harmony between India's top two players in the interests of Indian cricket.

He said that if the board confirmed the Indian selectors' view that Kapil Dev was guilty of indiscipline by getting out to a rash second innings stroke during India's eight-wicket defeat by England in the second Test, there would be no change of heart on his omission.

"Discipline has to be there at all costs and no one can be spared, however great a player he may be", Salve said.

Doubt over Greenidge

Melbourne (Reuter and AP) – Gordon Greenidge, the West Indian opening batsman, may miss the *Fourth Test against Australia* starting on Saturday because of a viral infection.

Cammie Smith, the assistant manager of the touring party, confirmed yesterday that Greenidge, who has a sore throat and has been unable to eat, was suffering from a virus. Smith said it was too early to say if Greenidge would play or not.

Injured fast-bowlers Michael Holding and Winston Davies are also doubtful for the match.

KELSO

GOING: soft (hurdles); good to soft (chase)

12.15 CHARTERHALL JUVENILE NOVICE HURDLE (3-y-o: £642: 2m) (16 runners)

0401	MENINGI (d) N Tinkler 11-6	N Tinkler
	BUNRANNOCH HOUSE R Fisher 10-10	M Meagher 4
	HALF SHAFT W A Stephenson 10-10	R Lamb
00	MAGNOX N Chamberlain 10-10	M Pepper
0p0	MOHAR N Tinkler 10-10	D Oldham
0	MR SPONGE D Lamb 10-10	–
b	POONA EXPRESS J Parkes 10-10	Lyn Whiffen 7
30	SPECIAL SETTLEMENT R Allan 10-10	N Doughty
	STAN'S FOLLY S Payne 10-10	Mr C Storey 7
4	TAELOS A Scott 10-10	P A Charlton
0102	TOP O'THE CREAM R Gray 10-10	S Charlton
0100	UNCLE OLIVER (D) V Thompson 10-10	Mr M Thompson 7
0	JOCA J Parkes 10-5	R Balfour 7
0	LADY LOCKET M Lambert 10-5	A Charlton 7
422	MISS GOLDINGAY (BF) M W Easterby 10-5	M Hindley 4
0	WINTER BONNET B McLean 10-5	–

1983: No corresponding meeting.

4 Miss Goldingay, 5-2 Meningi, 7-2 Taelos, 6 Bunrannoch House, ...ecial Settlement, Uncle Oliver, 14 others.

...: MENINGI (10-8) 15l winner from Bohemond (11-0) at Ayr (2m ... £581, soft, Nov 24, 5 ran). With SPECIAL SETTLEMENT (10-8) 12l 3rd. TAELOS (11-0) 2½l 4th of 20 to Dienau's Trove (11-0) at ...rick (2m hdle, £788, good, Dec 10) with "UNCLE OLIVER" (11-0) ... MISS GOLDINGAY (10-2) ½l 2nd to Nohalmdun (10-7) with SPECIAL SETTLEMENT (10-7) 33l away 6th and TOP O' THE CREAM (10-7) 18th ...erby, 2m hdle, £648, good, Dec 8, 21 ran).

...ction: MISS GOLDINGAY.

Kelso selections

By Mandarin

12.15 Taelos, 12.45 Fox-U-More, 1.15 YANK BROWN (nap), 1.45 Reay's Song, 2.15 Palm Cross, 2.45 Jondale.

By Michael Seely

12.45 FOX-U-MORE (nap), 2.45 Jondale.

12.45 KEILDER HANDICAP CHASE (£1,017: 2m 6f) (6)

2p10	STAND BACK W A Stephenson 7-12-4 (8 ex)	R Lamb
030-p	LITTLE FRENCHMAN (CD) E Robson 11-11-9	C Pimlott
1222	FOX-U-MORE (CD) K Oliver 7-11-0	T G Dun
3043	GEARYS COLD ROLLED Denys Smith 7-10-13	D Leadbitter 7
2p-41	SUPER SOLO (C) T Craig 8-10-0 (4 ex)	S Charlton
100-u	COMMAGH S Leadbetter 8-10-0	G W Gray

Fox-U-More, 5-2 Gearys Cold Rolled, 7-2 Super Solo, 5 Little Frenchman, 10 Stand Back, 16 Commagh.

FORM: [illegible]

1.15 MANITOU NOVICE HURDLE (Qualifier: £1,899: 2m 4f) (20)

[illegible]	TARGET MAN W A Stephenson 4-11-11	M Meagher 4
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
4161	ROMAN DUSK (D) J Charlton 4-11-6	Mr T Read 4
0033	SECRET LAKE D MacDonald 5-11-6	M Barnes
0-122	SILVER DREAMER (BF) W Harrison 4-11-6	–
22	43 YANK BROWN (BF) Mrs M Dickinson 4-11-6	R Earnshaw
23	1401 AUTUMN BALLET (CD) A Scott 5-11-6	P A Charlton
26	0 GRAEME'S GEM R Fisher 4-11-1	M Meagher 4
27	1 MISS WOODY J Haldane 4-11-1	T G Dun
28	00p/ PLAYAGAIN N Pringle 8-11-1	–
29	p/240 SUSANNA J Andrews 6-11-1	Mrs S Bradburne
30	1b20 BOHEMOND Denys Smith 3-10-5	NON-RUNNER
35	100 MISS JAY CEE J Parkes 3-10-0	R Balfour 7

3 Rising Forest, 4 Roman Dusk, 5 Target Man, Yank Brown, 6 Little Harry, 8 Secret Lake, 10 Autumn Ballet, 12 others.

FORM: TARGET MAN (11-0) all out to beat RISING FOREST (11-0) ½l at Newcastle with RETRIBUTION (11-0) 13½l back in 5th (2m 120yds hdle, £1,021, heavy, Dec 3, 24 ran). YANK BROWN (10-7) 1½l 3rd and GLEN LOCHAN (10-7) further 2l away 5th of 18 to Amber Rambler (10-13) at Nottingham (2m hdle, £738, good, Dec 3). LITTLE HARRY (10-12) beat Gaybells (10-4) 3l at Southwell (2m 4f hdle, £718, good to soft, Nov 20, 11 ran). ROMAN DUSK (11-12) 8l winner from Twelter (11-5) at Hexham (2m hdle, £820, heavy, Dec 5, 12 ran). AUTUMN BALLET (10-12) pushed out to beat Falcner Lady (10-12) 1½l over today's course and distance £1,072, good to soft, Dec 17, 11 ran).

Selection: RISING FOREST.

1.45 ELIBANK SELLING HANDICAP CHASE (£751: 2m 198yd) (5)

1	22p/0	COLONEL CREOLE V Thompson 8-12-6	Mr M Thompson 7
2	001p	OLD HEAD P Monteith 12-11-8	D Nolan
3	00-20	REAY'S SONG M Naughton 10-11-5	C Grant
5	0-003	SANTAGO (BF) F Watson 10-10-6	N Doughty
6	000d	MR PONGEE F Storey 9-10-0	M Barnes

5-4 Old Head, 5-2 Reay's Song, 7-2 Santago, 6 Mr Pongee, 10 Colonel Creole.

FORM: COLONEL CREOLE (11-7) last of 8 finishers in Catterick handicap (2m ch, £1,200, good, Dec 10, 9 ran). OLD HEAD pulled up last time, earlier (10-5) beat Veiled City (11-8) short head in Hexham handicap (2m ch, £941, soft, Oct 24, 7 ran). REAY'S SONG 22½l 5th (10-12 to Trollena (10-8) in handicap last time, previously (11-8) 15l 2nd of 6 to Doll Lars in Windsor selling handicap (2m ch, £542, good to soft, Nov 19). SANTAGO (12-0) 7½l 3rd of 8 to MOsquito River (10-4) in selling hurdle at Hexham (3m, £454, heavy, Dec 5). MR PONGEE (10-13) demoted to 2nd after beating Kindred (11-1) a neck in Catterick selling hurdle (2m, £327, good, Dec 10, 14 ran).

Selection: OLD HEAD.

2.15 GLENTREESS NOVICE CHASE (£742: 3m) (6)

1	0120	PALM CROSS (D) Miss J Eaton 7-11-7	P Barry
4	033p	HUMMELMOOR A Mactaggart 7-11-5	M Dwyer
5	000-u	MIGHTY RUN W A Stephenson 6-11-5	R Lamb
6	u220	RAMOA'S SON N Waggott 8-11-5	R Earnshaw
7	2-u0p	WELLHILL W Forster 9-11-5	A Stringer
8		SWEET STELLA C H P Bell 8-11-0	Mrs V Jackson 4

15-8 Palm Cross, 5-2 Ramoa's Son, 4 Wellhill, 7 Hummelmoor, 10 Mighty Run, Sweet Steele.

FORM: PALM CROSS always behind last time out in race won by Jockamber; previously (11-0) 7l 2nd of 9 to Big Brown Bear (11-0) at Haydock (3m ch, £1,881, good to soft, Nov 21). HUMMELMOOR pulled up last time; previously beaten over a distance when 3rd of 9 (11-5) to Marathon Man (11-5) at Ayr (3m 110yds ch, £1,156, soft, Nov 23). RAMAO'S SON only 10th last time; previously (11-8) 4l 2nd of 8 to Cornering (11-8) at Newcastle with WELLHILL (11-8) pulled up before 3 out and HUMMELMOOR (11-8) pulled up before 4 out (3m ch, £1,545, [illegible]).

Selection: RAMOA'S SON.

2.45 CARDRONA HANDICAP HURDLE (£824: 2m) (9)

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

[illegible] (10-0) neck 2nd to Vodun (11-7) with PART-EX (10-0) 7l back in 3rd (Ayr, 2m hdle, £1,207, soft, Nov 24, 6 ran).

Selection: BLUE TARQUIN.

RACING

Pagan Sun can put rivals in the shade

By Mandarin

With seven Newmarket Flat trainers saddling runners for today's Norfolk Novices' Hurdle at Fakenham, spectators might well be wondering whether obstacles actually have to be jumped during the two-mile contest.

Two of the trainers represented, Geoff Huffer and Alan Bailey, must be particularly anxious to lift this prize, as they both burnt their fingers badly when Nice One Andy and Pagan Sun failed to score at their first hurdling attempts.

Huffer ran Nice One Andy at Warwick last Friday and this promising recruit to the winter game looked like justifying strong market support – he was backed from 3-1 to 5-2 favouritism – until toppling over at the second flight from home when in a clear lead, leaving Royal Charge to prevail.

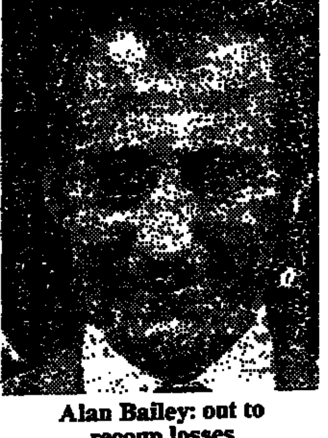
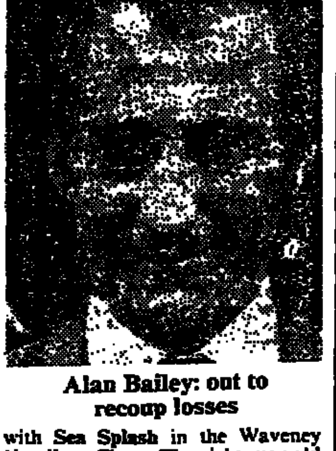
Bailey's Pagan Sun was also a popular order when he made his first appearance over hurdles at Cheltenham earlier this month, but after holding every chance two flights out, faded badly up the hill to finish seventh behind his former stable companion, Wing And A Prayer.

Gavin Pritchard-Gordon has a useful youngster in Gulfland, who shaped well when fourth behing Whiskey Eyes at Newbury, and Philip Mitchell, the versatile Epsom trainer, runs an interesting newcomer, *Sylvan Barnum*, who won a competitive six-furlong handicap at the Newmarket July meeting.

However, in the belief that Pagan Sun will be far better suited to Fakenham's less demanding tight circuit than Cheltenham, the Terry Ramsden-owned colt gets the vote.

No matter how he fares with Sylvan Barnum, Mitchell should be on the mark in the FitzWilliam Selling Handicap Hurdle with Vaigly Rel, who has a much easier opportunity this time after finishing a creditable fifth behind the talented Joy Ride in a novice hurdle at Windsor last month.

Owen Brennan, who collected with Milore at Catterick Bridge on Wednesday, may add to his tally with Sea Splash in the Waveney Handicap Chase. The eight-year-old is prone to jumping errors, but if he can reproduce last month's Leicester running, when he beat Greenways by 15 lengths, he should have the measure of today's modest rivals.



Alan Bailey: out to recoup losses

Target Man and Rising Forest, who fought out a desperate finish to the Warkworth Novices' Hurdle at Newcastle earlier this month, reoppose in today's Manitou Novices' Hurdle at Kelso, but I nap *the Monica Dickinson* trained Yank Brown to beat them both.

A winner of two bumper races in Ireland, Yank Brown has taken some time to show his form in this country, but last time out, over two miles at Nottingham, he was just run out of it on the flat by Amber Rambler and Singlecote, and could score at rewarding odds over today's extended trip.

Other likely winners at the Scottish meeting are Ken Oliver's consistent Fox-U-More in the Keilder Handicap Chase and Palm Cross, a gallant Wolverhampton scorer in October, who should relish the testing conditions of the three-mile Glentress Novices' Chase.

McKenna still in evidence

John McKenna, the Cheltenham vet whose professional evidence played a big part in clearing the trainer Sally Oliver at Wednesday's Jockey Club inquiry, was in the winner's enclosure as a delighted owner when Marina Star scored at Hereford yesterday.

McKenna is one of a syndicate of eight that includes a doctor, a solicitor, a finance broker and an estate agent, all from Cheltenham. Marina Star, who was giving weight all round, is now unbeaten in two starts over fences, but he only just lasted home yesterday by a short head from Just Joking.

The day's easiest winner in testing conditions was Fred Winter's newcomer Petit Pain, but the 3-1 chance had to make a dramatic recovery after slipping into the second hurdle. John Francome, riding only his second winner in the last three weeks, said that he actually put a hand on the ground to keep himself in the saddle. But after that Petit Pain jumped well.

They went evens both Ardent Spy and Voice of Progress in the Cloves Steeplechase, with 33-1 against the rest, but Ardent Spy fell at the first and Voice of Progress repeatedly jumped away to his left and was never travelling well. So Will Boreen sprang a 33-1 surprise which justified trainer Matt McCormack's sound and commendable philosophy that you don't earn any prizes by staying at home.

Happy return for Boardmans Coronet

...oardmans Coronet gained his ... victory in the second division ...e Caldbeck Novices' Hurdle at ...isle yesterday, 12 months after ...rtune deprived him of certain ...ry in the corresponding race.

A year ago, Boardmans Coronet ...wo out and had the race at his ...y only to break down before ... last. There were no problems ... time, though, as Neale Doughty ...ght him home a three-length ...ner from Heartbreak Hotel. ...rdmans Coronet is likely to go ...ce chasing in the New Year.

Doughty and Gordon Richards, trainer of Boardmans Coronet, completed a double when The Man Himself caught Abercata close home to win the Ladbroke Handicap Hurdle by a neck. It was the fortieth winner of the season for Richards.

The Divider proved himself a useful fencing recruit by taking the Heads Nook Novices' Chase by two and a half lengths from Secondary Image.

Ridden by Geordie Dun, The Divider was handed the initiative when Supreme Bid made a bad mistake four fences out. Tricia Calder, who owns and trains The Divider, plans to run him at Ayr early in the New Year.

● Kempton have called on Waterhog, a machine which clears surface water, to safeguard their Boxing Day fixture. Waterhog, which resembles a small steamroller, is completely mobile and can pump away 12,000 gallons of water an hour. The machine was instrumental in saving Folkestone's meeting on Tuesday from waterlogging.

FAKENHAM

GOING: good to soft

1.0 COTTESMORE NOVICE CHASE (£832: 2m 5f 110yd) (12 runners)

1	1221	OVERSWAY Mrs D Haine 7-11-12	S Smith Eccles
3	0/30p	ABO ACE R Champion 6-10-12	G McCourt
4	3210	ALUMNUS R Hoad 6-10-12	M Hoad 7
5	20-p0	COMMANDER CHRISTY H O'Neill 8-10-12	M Hammond
6	0-p00	ITALIAN AFFAIR C Holmes 8-10-12	A Webb
8	f600	LING P Harris 6-10-12	R Strange
9	f003	SLIP O'GRACE G King 7-10-12	S McNeill
10	024p-	SANTEL BOY Mrs N Macauley 5-10-10	K Sims 7
11	0pp0-	BEECHWOOD LAD M Connell 5-10-10	–
12	4030	MOUNTVILLE R Hoad 5-10-10	S J O'Neill
13	22-pp	THE GOVERNOR (B) J Jenkins 7-10-7	–
14	4-34p	KINGMON'S GIRL J Long 7-10-7	R Rowell

1983: Dr Pepper 6-10-8 J Lovejoy (3-1 jt fav) P D Haynes 13 ran

4-7 Oversway, 5 Kingmon's Girl, 13-2 Ling, 12 Abo Ace, Mountville, 16 others.

Fakenham selections

By Mandarin

1.0 Oversway, 1.30 Vaigly Rel, 2.0 Sea Splash, 2.30 Pagan Sun, 3.0 Smiling Cavalier, 3.30 Diddelo.

Michael Seely's selection 3.30 The Diplomat

1.30 FITZWILLIAM SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£578: 2m 80yd) (9)

1	190	SCOTTISCHE R Hoad 4-12-0	M Hoad 7
2	00-00	VAIGLY REL P Mitchell 4-11-10	Mr S Sherwood
3	24p0-	NO BUTTS J Scallan 4-11-8	J McLaughlin
4	10-p0	VESTAL TELEGRAPH P Allingham 5-11-4	M Hammond
5	114p	THE KNIFE (D) M James 6-11-3	Sharron James 7
6	4000	LEGS OF MAN (B) O Brennan 5-11-3	M Brennan
7	p000	BARFRESTON W Kemp 4-10-7	S Shilston
8	f4-00	STAR OF SALFORD J Long 6-10-6	R Rowell
9	0/000	SOVEREIGN SHOT Mrs E Andrews 6-10-4	Mrs L Gibson

1983: Miss Metro 6-11-0 H Davies (6-1) C Bravery 7 ran

5-4 Vaigly Rel, 7-2 The Knife, 9-2 Legs Of Man, 8 Star Of Salford, 12 Barfreston, 16 others.

2.0 WAVENEY HANDICAP CHASE (£1,171: 3m) (6)

1	p44u	SEAMUS O'FLYNN (B)(CD) C Holmes 9-11-11	A Webb
4	1up0	SEA SPLASH (CD) O Brennan 8-10-13	M Brennan
6	3143	MEGGIES DENE W Barrett 8-10-3	S Johnson
8	24/pp-	BETTER RED J Scallan 9-10-0	J McLaughlin
10	u333	PRINCE CARLTON (CD) Mrs J Bloom 9-10-0	Miss C Saunders 7
11	33-00	GOLDE CASTE (D) K Morgan 7-10-0	S McNeill

1983: Vendevar 8-10-11 J Francome (11-8 fav) A Jarvis 7 ran

7-4 Meggies Dene, 9-4 Prince Carlton, 7-2 Sea Splash, 6 Seamus O'Flynn, 12 Golde Caste, 20 Better Red.

2.30 WEST NORFOLK NOVICE HURDLE (3-y-o: £548: 2m 80yd) (15)

1	0	ABOUT TIME TOO D Thom 10-12	Mr D Murphy 4
2		AESCULAPLUS I Campbell 10-12	R Campbell 4
5		BASSETT BOY P Brookshaw 10-12	S J O'Neill
9	0	DOWNTOWN HUSTLER D Ringer 10-12	S McNeill
11	4	GULFLAND G Pritchard-Gordon 10-12	S Smith Eccles
13	pu	KIDSWOOD H O'Neill 10-12	K Caplen 7
15	f	MR MENACING J Jenkins 10-12	–
16	f	NICE ONE ANDY (BF) G Huffer 10-12	J McLaughlin
17	0	PAGAN SUN A Bailey 10-12	A Carroll
19	30	POLYNOR M Ryan 10-12	G McCourt
23		STATE BUDGET W Musson 10-12	C Smith
24		SYLVAN BARNUM P Mitchell 10-12	Mr S Sherwood
25	0	TAMERTOWN LAD J Jenkins 10-12	–
30		HUMBERSIDE LADY G Huffer 10-7	R O'Leary
31		PENNY LADY R Ledger 10-7	S Shilston

1983: Star Of Ireland 10-12 J Francome (11-4) A Jarvis 15 ran

5-2 Nice One Andy, Pagan Sun, 5 Gulfland, 6 Sylvan Barnum, 8 Downtown Hustler, Humberside Lady, 10 Tamertown Lad, Bassett Boy, 12 others.

3.0 BELVOIR CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP CHASE (£1,171: 2m) (5)

3	212/0	COLE PORTER (D) M Banks 9-11-7	G Williams
4	3010	SMILING CAVALIER (CD) A Madwar 8-10-11 (7 ex)	Angus Madwar
7	0000/	LEITH HILL FLYER P Mitchell 8-10-10	A Wright
8	004p	VITINGO C Holmes 5-10-10	K Burke
10	0f02	DEE PARK M James 9-10-5	M Caswell

1983: Smiling Cavalier 7-10-7 I Williams (4-1) A Madwar 6 ran

13-8 Dee Park, 2 Smiling Cavalier, 7-2 Vitingo, 8 Cole Porter, 14 Leith Hill Flyer.

3.30 FAKENHAM CARAVAN AND CAMPING SITE HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,008: 2m 80yd) (11)

1	0-000	GLENHAWK M Ryan 8-11-11	G McCourt
2	2112	THE DIPLOMAT D Ringer 6-11-4	S McNeill
4	0010	DIDDELO B Wise 7-10-12	R Rowell
5	00p2	SNITTERFIELD C Holmes 8-10-7	A Webb
6	00-00	PRINCESS HENHAM N Callaghan 4-10-6	J Suthern
7	00f4	GOLDORATION (CD) H O'Neill 9-10-5	M Hammond
8	f0-00	CAPTAIN OATES M James 5-10-4	Sharron James 7
9	f0p0	FRIDAY STREET R Hoad 5-10-1	M Hoad 7
11	0-413	EUROLINK BOY P Mitchell 5-10-0	A Wright 7
13	0040-	ALAN STUART W Barrett 4-10-0	S Johnson
15	0-p0	EXPEDITIOUS I Campbell 4-10-0	R Campbell 4

1983: End Of Era 5-10-10 J Francome (2-1 fav) J Jenkins 15 ran

11-4 Eurolink Boy, 7-2 The Diplomat, 4 Diddelo, 6 Snitterfield, 7 Glenhawk, 8 Goldoration, 14 others.

Hereford results

Going: soft

12.30 (2m hdle) 1, CHUMMY'S BOY (Mr M Richards, 10-1); 2, Master Boon (S McNeill, 2-1 fav); 3, Looking For Gold (N Fearn, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 9-2 Comra (pu), 11-2 Sax (5th), Solar Light (4th), 20 Charles Boot (6th), 25 Thomas A Becket (pu). 8 ran. Hd, 12l, 3l, 10l, 12l. D Burchell at Ebbw Vale. TOTE: £13.50; £3.10, £1.20, £2.30. DF: £11.70. CSF: £27.43. After a stewards' inquiry, the result stood.

1.0 (2m 4f ch) 1, WILL BOREEN (P Barton, 33-1); 2, Voice Of Progress (P Scudamore, evens jt-fav); 3, Dishcloth (J Bryan, 33-1). ALSO RAN: Evens jt-fav Ardent Spy (f), 33 Rorqual (f). 5 ran. 1½l, 30l. M McCormack at Wantage. TOTE: £19.50; £3.40, £1.40. DF: £21.60. CSF: £63.17. After a stewards' inquiry, the result stood.

1.30 (3m 1f hdle) 1, MENDALEAK (N Coleman, 10-1); 2, Rabeg (H Davies, 5-1); 3, Rigton Beau (A Webber, 7-1); 4, Kevin Evans (R Rowe, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 4 fav Somay (pu), 10 Pharaoh's Own, 14 Rueful Lady, Shirley Grove, 16 Slieve Luachra, 20 Dial Direct, Miss Willa, Spaced Out (5th), Tic-On-Rose (6th), 33 Mariban, 50 Beau Wynk, Curtan Run (pu), Battue (pu). 17 ran. 12l, 15l, 1½l, dist. W Price at Ebbw Vale. TOTE: £12.80; £1.40, £1.80, £3.00, £2.50. DF: £32.10. CSF: £58.18. Tricast: £351.26.

2.0 (3m 1f ch) 1, FREDWEL (S Morshead, 8-1); 2, Mr Gumboots (Peter Hobbs, 14-1); 3, Pucka Fella (J Hurst, 13-8 fav). Also ran: 5 Ballydonagh (pm), 7 Woodlands Lad (ur), 10 Bright Beacon (pm) 12 Shamrock Bridge (4th), Broughton Lad (pm), 33 Rodney Parade (pm), 50 Piping Reed (pm). 10 ran. 10l, dist, ¾. P Bailey at Salisbury. Tote: £11.10; £2.00, £3.20, £1.40. DF: £49.20. CSF: £95.27. Tricast: £243.03.

2.30 (2m, ch) 1, MARINA STAR (J Suthern, 7-1); 2, Just Joking (H Davies, 8-1); 3, Brother Geoffrey (D Wilkinson, 6-4 fav). Also ran: 5 Master Carl (pm), 8 Rostra (6th), 20 Quite Hot, 25 Fare love (f), Sovereign Island (4th), 50 Palmerston (5th), Native Son (f), Only A Fool (f), Cynical Sam (pm), Fountain Valley (pm), Quick Reply, Shannie (pm), Swaggering. 16 ran. Sh hd, 2l, 1½l, 5l, 3l. O O'Neill at Cheltenham. Tote: £6.90; £1.50, £1.90, £1.60. DF: £18.90. CSF: £54.82.

3.0 1, PETIT PAIN (J Francome, 3-1); 2, Nader (R Rowe, 5-4 fav); 3, Record Red (S Morshead, 25-1). Also ran: 13-2 Flaming Pearl (6th), 8 Laurenbel (5th), 14 Burgundy Star, 16 Nebco (pm), 20 Redgrave Artist, Flodabay, Downtown Chicago, 25 Alcinous (4th), 33 Craven Boy (pm), 50 Rusty Roc (pm), Remainder Girl (pm), Saucy Squirrel (pm), Aston Bank, Walk I Rhythm. 17 ran. 15l, dist, 2l, 2l, 8l. F Winter at Lambourn. Tote: £3.50; £1.70, £1.30, £2.30. DF: £8.80. CSF: £7.71. Placepot: £5.55.

Carlisle

Going: soft

12.45 (2m 330yd hdle) 1, CHIPHASE (Mr G Harker, 7-4 fav); 2, Starshot (Mr D Swindlehurst, 8-1); 3, Prince Reviewer (T Wall, 11-2). ALSO RAN: 4 Prince Sweet (4th), 5 Demonic, 16 Sydetzky (6th), 20 Day Of Wishes, 33 Kummasie, 50 There Again (pu), Milton Lockhart (5th). 10 ran. Neck, 20l, 15l, 20l, 15l. B Wilkinson at Middleham. TOTE: £2.90; £1.60, £1.30, £2.10. DF: £3.20. CSF: £15.31.

1.15 (2m 330yd hdle) 1, EDWEET (K Teelan, 11-4 fav); 2, Richards Bay (N Doughty, 9-2); 3, Calaman (D Nolan, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 4 Denver (pu), Rhymarc (f), 111 Taucer (4th), 12 It's Heaven (f), 25 Mr Music Boy (su). 8 ran. 8l, 6l, 5l. W Storey at Consett. TOTE: £2.80; £1.80, £1.10, £1.20. DF: £7.30. CSF: £14.08. Winner bought in for 720 guineas.

1.45 (3m ch) 1, BITTERMAN (C Grant, 14-1); 2, Strawtall (K Doolan, 9-2); 3, Preben Fur (D Coakley, 2-1 fav). ALSO RAN: 4 Twilight, (4th), 9-2 Succeeded (ur), 10 Who's Free. 6 ran. 4l, 10l, 8l, 20l. J Jefferson at Malton. TOTE: £16.70; £5.70, £2.20. DF: £95.40. CSF: £62.63.

2.15 (2m 4f ch) 1, THE DIVIDER (T G Dun, 15-8 fav); 2, Secondary Image (M Dwyer, 5-1); 3, Supreme Bid (R Balfour, 8-1). ALSO RAN: 5 French Lord (5th), 10 Charles Duke, 20 Light Demon (6th), Victory Morn, 25 Royal Jet (pu), 33, Colladieu (pu), Hazy Day (ur), 50 Binge (4th), Cool Trickster (f), Kingley House, Mermalde (f), Cells (pu). 15 ran. NR: Shiney Son. 2½l, 3l, 10l, 5l, 4l. Mrs T Calder at Duns. TOTE: £2.70; £2.00, £2.00, £1.30. DF: £4.90. CSF: £10.48.

2.45 (2m 330yd hdle) 1, BOARDMANS CORONET (N Doughty, 11-8 fav); 2, Heartbreak Hotel (Mrs B Butterworth, 16-1); 3, Lucky Fen (A Brown, 8-1). ALSO RAN: 13-2 Lisally (5th), 15-2 Gun Carriage (4th), 8-8 Bannow Burn (6th), 12 Uptown, 33 Abbey Boy, Busk Fuzz, Royal Glow (pu), Bright Suggestion, Drake House (f), Jarill, Poppin Gill (pu), Tuvalu (pu). 15 ran. 3l, 6l, 15l, sh hd, 5l. G Richards at Greystoke. TOTE: £2.90; £1.80, £3.40, £1.60. DF: £19.00. CSF: £21.55.

3.15 (2m 4f hdle) 1, THE MAN HIMSELF (N Doughty, 8-1); 2, Abercata (J D Davies, 5-1); 3, Night Errant (M Barnes, 7-1). ALSO RAN: 5-2 fav Flying Oats (4th), 6 Colonel Rose (5th), 8 Starlight Rocky, 18 Mayanncor, Worthy Heiress, 25 Lewis Homes, Pan Royal, Cool Thomas (6th). 11 ran. NR: Cut 'N Dry. Neck, 8l, 3l, ¾l, 10l. G Richards at Greystoke. TOTE: £7.50; £2.80, £1.90, £4.00. DF: £16.00. CSF: £44.05. TRICAST: £263.09.

PLACEPOT: £30.15.

● To commemorate the late Capt. Tim Rogers, Tattersalls are sponsoring the Tattersalls-Rogers Gold Cup, a group two event for four-year-olds and upwards, to be run over ten furlongs on Irish 2,000 Guineas Day at the Curragh on May 18. The race has Ir £65,000 in prize money of which Tattersalls are contributing Ir £50,000.

● Earl's Brig, beaten by Unscrupulous Judge at Kelso on Monday will miss tomorrow's Coral Welsh National at Chepstow.

● Today's Plumpton meeting was cancelled because of a waterlogged course.

OFFICIAL SCRATCHINGS: All engagements (dead): Ferry Rock, Norfolk Pageant, Proven Data, Little Miss Horner.

Course specialists

KELSO

TRAINERS: A Scott 20 wins from 74 runners, 27.0%; N Crump 9 from 52, 17.3%; W A Stephenson 38 from 251, 15.1%.

JOCKEYS: C Pimlott 18 winners from 88 rides, 20.5%; J J O'Neill 14 from 87, 16.1%; R Lamb 23 from 165, 13.9%.

TRAINERS: P Mitchell 18 wins from 48 runners, 37.5%; J Jenkins 7 from 27, 25.9%.

JOCKEYS: Mr S Sherwood 15 winners from 36 rides, 41.7%; S Smith Eccles 5 from 21, 23.8%; M Hammond 5 from 27, 12.5%.

FOOTBALL

Contrite Wright ends the feud at Southampton

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

Mark Wright yesterday attempted to bring an end to his protracted and public dispute with his manager, Lawrie McMenemy, and his club, Southampton. With the assistance of Gordon Taylor, the secretary of the Professional Footballers' Association, he issued a statement in which he apologized for an article that appeared recently in a Sunday newspaper.

His statement read: "After discussions with the PFA and having taken the advice of Mr Gordon Taylor, the secretary of the PFA, Mark Wright wishes to publicly apologize to Southampton FC for coments published in the media.

"He accepts that he was wrong to do this and wishes to state quite categorically that he did not appreciate the significance of the photograph taken which was used by the newspaper concerned in an insulting manner without his knowledge.

"Having made statements to the newspaper concerned, he did make attempts to try to retract the situation following a meeting with the manager on Thursday December 6. He wishes to reiterate his intention of giving a full commitment to the manager and the club under the terms of his contract.

"He appreciates the debt he owes to Lawrie McMenemy for the progress his career has made so far. He also wishes to confirm through the PFA that he has, as yet, received no money for the articles, and any fees so due will be paid by him direct to he Save The Children (Ethiopia) appeal fund."

Everyone, and particularly Wright, must hope that those are the last words to be uttered in the distasteful affair. Although the youngster has surprisingly escaped official punishment, he has inflicted on himself damage that is more severe than if McMenemy had climbed out of the bath into which Wright says he pushed him and landed a knock-out blow.


Wright: apologized

Within a couple of years of being lifted out of relative obscurity at Oxford United, he was dropped, albeit prematurely, into the heart of England's defence. Not content with progress that many another 21-year-old would regard as belonging in the land of fantasy, he began to feel he should be above criticism.

The problem was caused initially when McMenemy complained during the interval of last month's Milk Cup tie with Queen's Park Rangers about the individual conributions of Williams, who is still determined to move away from Southampton, and Wright. They overreacted, filled perhaps with their own self-importance after taking part the previous week in England's 8-0 victory over Turkey in Istanbul.

McMenemy has accepted the apology, but it would not be surprising if he did so grudgingly. Why, for instance, did it take almost a fortnight for Wright to issue the statement, and why did he require the heavy guidance of the PFA to do so? Whatever happens now, Wright is sure to be by far the heaviest loser in the argument.

Lawrenson and Liverpool back live

Mark Lawrenson returns for Liverpool in tonight's televised game away to Queen's Park Rangers, after recovering from a hamstring strain which has kept him out for two matches.

He replaces Gillespie in the only change from the team wich drew at Aston Villa on Saturday. Dalglish is still toubled by a back strain, so Walsh partners Rush up front.

Kevin MacDonald, Liverpool's recent £400,000 signing from Leicester City, could be named the substitute – the first time he has been in contention for a first-team place since serving a three-match suspension.

Liverpool, making their fifth appearance in a live televised match this season, will move into the top five for the first time this season if they win.

Queen's Park Rangers have dropped Wicks, the former England Under-21 defender, for the game. He is the first casualty of the London side's change of style since the departure of Alan Mullery.

One of the first acts of Frank Sibley, the caretaker manager, on taking control was to abandon the controversial offside tactics perfected by Terry Venables and employed by Mullery, in favour of a sweeper system.

It was obvious during last weekend's 3-0 defeat by Manchester United that Wicks does not fit in with this and Sibley has called in Chivers. "Steve can't play in the system in the way it is at the moment," Sibley said.

QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS: Hucker; (from) Neill, Dawes, McDonald, Fenwick Chivers, Stewart, Waddock, Bannister, Stainrod, Gregory, Fereday, Byrne, James.
LIVERPOOL: Grobbelaar; Neal, Kennedy, Lawrenson, Johnston, Hansen, Walsh, Wark, Rush, Molby, Nicol. Sub: Whelan or MacDonald.

Wembley propose a British compromise

Wembley Stadium officials have come up with a plan to avert a possible fixture clash involving England's World Cup campaign. England have a World Cup qualifying match in Finland on May 22, the same day as the second leg of the UEFA Cup final, which could possibly be between Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester United, both of whom have reached the quarter-finals.

If the British clubs should play each other, Wembley are suggesting a one-leg final at the stadium earlier in May, rather than the customary two-leg encounter. UEFA permission would be needed.

● Shrewsbury Town's 14-goal top scorer, Gary Stevens, faces his second two match ban of the season and will miss the third round FA Cup tie against Oxford United on January 5 after being sent off in a Shropshire Senior Cup match against Oswestry Town on Wednesday night. He will also miss the second division game at Wimbledon the following week.

● Len Walker, the former Aldershot manager, has issued a High Court writ claiming wrongful dismissal by the club. Walker left on November 16 after three years as the manager and then Ron Harris took over.

However, Harris may also be departing, just five weeks after taking over as manager in a boardroom coup. Reg Driver, the former chairman has predicted that he will be back in the chair by the end of next month, when his first job will be to remove Harris and recall Walker.

● Coventry City, will allow Mark Hateley, their former forward to receive medical treatment at Highfield Road while spending Christmas with his family in Nottingham. Hateley, who now plays for AC Milan underwent a knee operation in Italy last month.

Meanwhile, two Coventry players have been loaned out for a month – Graham Withey to Cardiff City and Andy Spring to Lincoln City.

● Ron Saunders, the Birmingham City manager, has signed David Geddes for the second time in the 26-year-old forward's career. He moved from Barnsley for £45,000 – far less than the £300,000 which Saunders paid to Ipswich Town while he was in charge at Aston Villa in September 1979.

● Frank Worthington, aged 36, is expected to sign for Wolverhampton Wanderers. Worthington, who joined Brighton and Hove Albion at the start of this season on a free transfer from Southampton, has scored only three goals in 14 matches. Wolverhampton will be his ninth league club.

● Luton Town have decided against signing the Uruguayan international, Nelson Agresta, a 29-year-old midfield player who has been training with the club all week. "He is no better than the players I already have", David Pleat, the Luton manager said.


Geddis: cut-price fee

Showpiece final for little clubs

The Associate Members' Cup, launched last year for third and fourth division clubs, has a new name, a £50,000 sponsorship deal and a Wembley final on June 1.

Freight Rover, the Birmingham-based manufacturers of commercial vehicles, announced their sponsorship of the "Freight Rover Trophy" yesterday.

Clubs reaching the later stages will share £30,000, and the two finalists will each receive a 15-seater minibus worth £10,000. The 48 clubs will be split north and south until the area finals on May 13, only the first round will be played over two legs.

DRAW: First round (two legs): Burnley v Stockport County; Wrexham v Wigan Athletic; Bury v Chester City; Rochdale v Preston North End; Bolton Wanderers v Crewe Alexandra; Tranmere Rovers v Blackpool; Doncaster Rovers v York City; Hartlepool v Lincoln City; Scunthorpe United v Bradford; Halifax Town v Darlington; Rotherham United v Chesterfield; Hull City v Mansfield Town; Port Vale v Northampton Town; Derby County v Walsall; Newport County v Exeter City; Peterbrough v Cambridge United; Bournemouth v Plymouth Argyle; Hereford United v Bristol City; Swansea City v Bristol Rovers; Torquay United v Swindon Town; Orient v Aldershot; Reading v Brentford; Millwall v Southend United; Gillingham v Colchester United.

Matches to be player in weeks commencing January 21 and February 4.

Wednesday's results

Third division

PRESTON	(1) 2	YORK C	(3) 4
Johnson, Rudge		McPhail, Houchen, Pearce, Banton	
2,864			

Fourth division

PETERBORO	(1) 1	BURY	(2) 4
Worrall		Madden 2, Hill, James	
3,836			

FA TROPHY: Third qualifying round: Basingstoke 0, Croydon 2.
CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Aston Villa 1, Manchester City 0; Barnsley 1, Nottingham Forest 2, Newcastle 1 Bradford 0; Sheffield United 3, Stoke 0. Second division: Bolton 0, Sunderland 1 Postponed: Doncaster Rovers v Hull
FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Postponed: Millwall v Luton.
MIDWEEK LEAGUE: Northampton 1, Bournemouth 1.
RUGBY UNION: Representative match: Royal Navy 4, Combined London OB 13. Schools matches: Judd 6, Old Juddians 18; Marling 20, Old Marlingtonians 6.

FA back down on status plan

Non-League football by Paul Newman

The Football Association have dropped a controversial plan to change the system under which clubs become full members of the FA. Clubs and leagues throughout the country opposed the plan, which would have meant that several well-known clubs currently below the highest levels of the non-League game – including Kingstonian, Bromley, Oxford City, Clapton, Corinthian-Casuals, Cambridge City, West Auckland and Willington – would lose their status as full members and become associate members.

Under the FA's plan, full membership would have been held only by clubs in the premier divisions of the Gola, Isthmian, Southern, Northern Premier and Northern Leagues and 84 of the current 250 full members would have become associate members. Associate members have no voting rights and have their disciplinary matters handled by their county associations – who tend to hand out more severe punishments – rather than the FA.

The plan was drawn up because the current system is widely considered unsatisfactory. Full members are selected individually, largely according to their performances in FA competitions, and the status is rarely removed once granted. While some full members are now playing well below the top levels, some associate members who have made substantial progress both on and off the pitch have either been consistently refused full membership or have had to wait several years for it.

Although the plan has been dropped, the FA and the county associations are likely to reconsider the full membership held by some clubs now playing below the highest levels. A new set of proposals on membership may also be drawn up at a later date.

● The North West Counties League (NWCL) and the Northern Counties East League (NCEL) appear to have successfully opposed a plan by the Northern Premier League (NPL) to form a second division consisting largely of NWCL and NCEL teams. The two lower leagues prefer to complete their part of the new "pyramid" structure by forming promotion and relegation links with the NPL. The NPL, however, have not been satisfied that the standards in the two leagues are high enough and proposed forming their own second division as an alternative.

The NWCL and NCEL opposed the plan and a poll of their clubs by the FA has confirmed that there is little support for it. The NWCL and NCEL now hope to reopen negotiations on promotion and relegation with the NPL.

● Managing a Northern Premier League club is rapidly becoming the most precarious job in football. At least 10 of the 22 clubs have replaced their managers since the start of the season. The latest two managers to lose their jobs are Bob Murphy of Southport and Stuart Mason of Oswestry Town.

Murphy, appointed only 10 months ago, has been dismissed because of Southport's poor form. He has been replaced by Brian Griffiths, who resigned last week after only months of his second spell this year as the manager of South Liverpool. Mason, who took over at Oswestry at the end of last season from Ken Roberts, was also dismissed because of bad results. Trevor Storton, the brother of the Telford United manager Stan, has been appointed player-manager in his place.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Unlucky break for Schofield

Dewsbury's hopes of pulling off a surprise win in the quarter-finals of the John Player Special Trophy this weekend were boosted yesterday with some unfortunate news from Hull, (Keith Macklin writes). Garry Schofield, the brilliant young Hull and Great Britain centre, fractured an elbow in the under-21 international in France last Sunday. Originally he thought it was severly bruised. Schofield will be out for over a month, at a time when Hull are struggling to find form.

St Helens have reshuffled their side to entertain Halifax in tomorrow's trophy game because of ligament trouble suffered by their Australian full back Phil Veivers. Allen will move from centre to full back and the utility player Peters comes in at centre, partnering Meninga.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

UNITED STATES: National Association (NBC): Milwaukee Bucks 107, Boston Celtics 92; New Jersey Nets 115, Washington Bullets 108; Philadelphia 76ers 123, San Antonio Spurs 118; Los Angeles Lakers 123, Houston Rockets 116; Detroit Pistons 146, Denver Nuggets 128; Los Angeles Clippers 91, Seattle Supersonics 86.
NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Leicester 103 (Vaughan 30), Bracknell Pirates 89 (Anderson 25).

FOOTBALL

BULGARIAN LEAGUE: Chernomorets 1, Cherno More 1; Dounav 1, CSKA 4; Trakia 1, Spartak Pleven 1; Botev 4, Slavia 1; Lokomotiv Sofia 2, Minyor 2; ZNSK Spartak Varna 3, Pirin 3; Levski Spartak 7, Beroe Stara Zagora 2; Etur 2, Sliven 0.
INTERNATIONAL: Egypt 0, Norway 1.

NORDIC SKIING

St Moritz: World Cup Jumping: 1, H Schwarz, (WG), 222.5pts, (91 and 90 metres); 2, S Memm, (EG), 205.1 (82/88.5); 3, T Muller, (WG), 204.1 (85/88.5); 4, I Olsen, (Nor), 201.5 (84.5/87); 5, J Ylipulli (Fin), 201.4 (86/87); 6, T Finlo, (WG), 199.9 (85/87).

ICE HOCKEY

NORTH AMERICA: National League (NHL): Hartford Whalers 6, Boston Bruins 5; Winnipeg Jets 5; New York Rangers 4; New Jersey Devils 3, Pittsburgh Penguins 2; Buffalo Sabres 6, Chicago Black Hawks 3; St Louis Blues 4, Minnesota North Stars 1 Edmonton Oilers 7, Los Angeles Kings 3.

BOXING

BELFAST: Welterweight (8 rounds): Geoff Pegler (Swansea) ko David Irving (Belfast), 7th round; Light-middle (8 rounds): Carl Barwise (Tooting) bt Rocky McGran (Belfast), pts; Bantam (8 rounds): Dave McAuley (Larne) bt Graham Clarke (Cardiff), 4th round; Feather (12 rounds): Barry McGuigan (Clones) ko Clyde Ruan (Slough), 4th round.

TENNIS

MIAMI BEACH: Annual Orange Bowl Junior Championships: Boy's under 18, third round: G Bloom (Is) bt J Izaga (Peru), 6-1, 6-1; A Moreno (mex) bt K Uwe-Steed (WG) 3-6, 6-3, 7-5; L Jensen (US) bt I Saric (Yug) 6-3, 6-2; B Oresar (Yug) bt A Volkov (USSR) 7-5, 3-6, 6-3
GIRLS' UNDER 18: G Sabatini (Arg) bt A Alonen (Fin) 6-0,6-1; K Maleeva (Bul) bt D Ketelaar (Neth) 6-2, 6-2.

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB: RENNY CUP, quarter-finals: R Bonallack (Haileybury) bt J Dean (Winchester), 15-1, 5-15, 15-8; G W Deveraux (Rugby) bt A D Ferguson (Malvern), 15-3, 15-8; A J Harrison (Radley) bt C Crichton-Stuart (Eton), 18-15, 17-18; M A Smythe-Osbourn (Eton) bt P Tennant (Wellington), 15-11, 15-1. Semi-finals: Deveraux bt Bonallack, 15-4, 15-6, 15-13; Smythe-Osbourn bt Harrison, 15-0, 10-15, 15-8, 18-14.

RUGBY UNION

TOUR MATCH: Basque XV 28, Romania 6 (in Biarritz).

LEGAL NOTICES

WILLIAM J LIGHT AND COMPANY LIMITED
To Whom it may Concern Notice is hereby given that:
1. At an Extraordinary General Meeting of the above named company duly convened and held at The Post House Hotel, Sipson Road, West Drayton, Middlesex on Thursday, December 13th 1984, a special resolution was passed that the payment of One hundred and forty seven thousand, one hundred and sixty six pounds (147,166) out of the company's capital as defined in section 54(1) of the Companies Act 1981, in respect of the purchase by the company from Kenneth William Edward Light, Gordon James Light, Dudley George Light, Joan Mary Light and Brenda McKenzie Light of the company's ordinary one pound (£1) shares under section 46 of the said Act, be authorised.
2. The statutory declaration of the directors and the auditors' report required by section 55 of the Companies Act 1981 are available for inspection at the company's registered office at 3, London Wall Buildings, London Wall, London EC2M 5UJ.
3. Any creditor of the company may at any time within the five weeks immediately following the 13th of December 1984, apply to the High court of Justice for an order prohibiting the payment.
Signed before me this 13th day of December 1984.
C W J SCOBLE-HODGINS
A Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Judicature.
B J O'GALLAGHER
Company Secretary.

THE COMPANIES ACT, 1948
IN THE MATTER OF CHARTACITY HOLDINGS LIMITED
Nature of Business: HOTELIERS
Winding up order made: 15 October 1984
DATE AND PLACE OF FIRST MEETINGS:
Creditors: Wednesday 6 February 1985 at 10.30 am.
Contributories: Wednesday 6 February 1985 at 11.00 am, both at The Official Receiver's Office, Commercial Union House, 22 Martineau Square, Birmingham B2 4UP.
H. ROACH
DEPUTY OFFICIAL RECEIVER AND PROVISIONAL LIQUIDATOR. Tel: 021-236 8831.

BUSINESS SYSTEMS LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at The Greyhound Motor Hotel, Warrington Road, Leigh, Greater Manchester, on Friday the 21st day of December 1984 at 10.30 o'clock in the fore noon, for the purposes mentioned in Sections 293, 294 and 295 of the Companies Act 1948.
Dated this 7th day of December 1984.
A JARRATT
Director

IN THE MATTER of PHILIP GREEN FASHION WEAR Limited
and in the matter of The Companies Act 1948
Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above-named Company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before the 18th day of January, 1985, to send in their full Christian and surnames, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned KEITH DAVID GOODMAN, FCA of PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London W2 6LF the liquidator of the said Company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said liquidator, are, personally or by their solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
Dated this 7th day of December 1984.
KEITH DAVID GOODMAN Liquidator

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE No. 879 of 1984
CHANCERY DIVISION, LEEDS DISTRICT REGISTRY
IN THE MATTER OF SCHOFIELDS (YORKSHIRE) LIMITED
and
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1948
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division, dated the 7th day of December, 1984, (a) sanctioning a Scheme of Arrangement between the above named Company and the holders of the several classes of its shares and (b) confirming the reduction of the capital of the above named Company from £1,700,000 to £34,800, and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the share capital of the Company as altered the several particulars required by the above Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on the 10th day of December 1984.
Dated the 18th day of December, 1984
HEPWORTH & CHADWICK
GUILDFORD CHAMBERS
111 THE HEADROW
LEEDS LS1 5JP
Solicitors for the said company.

No. 25 (Rule 58(6))
IN THE MATTER of NATIONAL INVESTORS LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED
BY ORDER of the HIGH COURT, dated the 14th day of DECEMBER 1984, Mr IAN GLENDINNING WATT of 70 FINSBURY PAVEMENT, LONDON EC2A 1SX has been appointed Liquidator of the above-named Company with a Committee of Inspection.
Dated this 14th day of DECEMBER, 1984

Car Buyer's Guide

Motoring by Clifford Webb

New four-speed automatics belie fuel image

A new generation of four-speed automatics with a lock-up on fourth gear is changing the image of the automatic car as a fuel guzzling wastrel. I have been driving two of the latest offerings from Ford and Peugeot and was very impressed by both.

The automatic fitted to the Sierra two-litre is Ford's own design and is being manufactured in increasing numbers at its huge Bordeaux transmissions plant. With this feature currently only available on this model, the 1985 Sierra will cost an extra £383.

Torque converter slip is the enemy of economic motoring. But you need slip just as you need a clutch on a manual gearbox to start from rest and to facilitate gear changes. Unlike a clutch however the converter is also slipping and wasting fuel both in slow traffic and at speed.

Ford, like other car manufacturers, has reduced losses by locking up the converter in fourth and in Ford's case in third as well. It also incorporates the ability to freewheel on the over-run in first, second and third gear – another fuel saver. But for those winter horrors of snow and ice which put the normal automatic at a disadvantage it offers engine breaking on over-run if first and second gear are selected manually.

Ford claims that the new automatic gives such improved fuel consumption that it comes within a whisker of the five-speed manual version. Top gear is really an overdrice, reducing engine speed by 25 per cent and is identifie on the selector as DE (Drive Economy). Third gear D is the normal top.

Left to its own devices the new automatic does its work smoothly and efficiently. The ratios are particularly well suited to the two-litre engine.

I am less happy about the rather complicated selector gate. It is not easy to find the right slot at the best of times but at night it is almost impossible. The individual selector positions light up but the actual gate is in darkness. I would outline it in florescent paint or direct some light onto it.

The Peugoet 305 is the first to use the new lightweight four-speed automatic box made by the German ZF concern. It is appreciably smaller than the four-speed ZFs seen on some BMW models, taking up the same space as a manual five-speed box. Austin Rover is reported by the grapevine to be next to fit the new ZF.

Gear box oil is cooled by the engine coolant system through a water/oil heat exchanger, saving weight and room under the bonnet.

The 305 automatic has the 1580cc engine already seen in the 305 so-called GT model – in practice a very mediocre performer. Allied to the new automatic it is much happier in the role of a moderately quick family saloon. It costs £6,995.

Space Wagon

Seven of us were going to dinner. As ever there was the problem of who would drive and keep drinking to a minimum so the remainder could indulge themselves. In our case, it was muliplied by the need to take two cars because getting seven into even the largest production saloon is extremely uncomfortable.

Our problem was solved however by the arrival of my next test car. The Mitsubishi Space Wagon is a member of the motor industry's newest family, the high-sided vehicle which combines the duties of a normal saloon car, estate car, seven seater mini-bus and delivery van.

The French have been doing that for years with 16-foot-plus monsters like the Citroën and Peugeot "Familiales". The difference is that the newcomers include their third row of seats by raising the roof line to accommodate the extra passengers on the same flat base as the driver. The result is a car which is at least two feet shorter, more at home in city traffic and between £1,000 and £2,000 cheaper.

Yet there is nothing cheap about the Mitsubishi's equipment. My passengers were particularly impressed by the appearance and comfort of the crushed velour covered seats. The excellent dashboard layout and cockpit controls are similar to those encountered before in this company's up-market saloons.

Another plus point is the care that has gone into matching the heating and ventilation system to the special needs of a smallish vehicle carrying seven people. The problem of excessive window misting is countered by a network of ducts carrying hot or cold air to all parts.

The fold-away seats are child's play to operate yet remain firm and rattle-free. Mitsubishi claims that with all the passenger seats folded flat it will accommodate a large bed.

A 1.8 litre engine operating on two-star petrol would seem to be a bit down on power for such a load shifter. Not a bit of it. The Space Wagon is a pretty nifty performer helped by a five-speed manual gear box with a knife-into-butter change mechanism. It cruises at motorway maximums with quiet ease and, thanks to the overdrive, fifth returns well over 30 mpg.

As always with compromises there is a penalty to be paid. In this case it is the effect of the high centre of gravity. There is noticeable lean on cornering which is disconcerting until you – and more importantly your passengers – come to terms with it.

A combination of understeering front wheel drive and a long wheel base, with a wheel as near each corner as possible, ensure that this is an inherently stable vehicle. But first-time drivers will have to come to terms with its top-heavy feeling and susceptibility to side winds on motorways.

You will have to get your order in smartly if you want one. Mitsubishi imports are severely rationed because it has proved very popular since it arrived here eight months ago. From January 1, seatbelts will be supplied as standard equipment

Vital Statistics

Model: Mitsubishi Space Wagon
Price: £7,999
Engine: 1755cc
Performance: Maximum speed 101.8 mph
Official Consumption: Urban 26.2 mph; 56 mph, 44.1 mpg and 75 mph 33.2 mpg
Length: 14 ft
Insurance: Group 5/6

FOR the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. Habakkuk 2: 14.

BIRTHS

ADEANE.– On December 18th to Olinda and James, a son.

BOYS.– On Tuesday 18th December at Queen Charlotte's hospital, to Deborah (nee Walford) and Andrew – a son (Hugo Alexander Harvey).

BULL on December 19th at St Richards, Chichester, to Chris and Richard, a son Duncan Oliver Richard, brother to Simon.

COLLIER– To Lavinia and David–a son, Ambrose Thomas Edward, on December 7th in Somerset.

DEWS – on 18th December to Delia (née Youngs) and Ian a daughter Helen Mary.

FLAHERTY. – On December 17, to Lesley (née Nisbet) and St. John a son, a brother for Katherine.

GORE BROWNE. On December 19th at Queen Mary's, Roehampton, to Jane Anne (born Dickson) and James, a daughter Marina.

KIRKWOOD – To Nicole (nee de Fresnes) and Timothy John on 30th November, a daughter, Harriet Mary.

MILES on 19th December at Canterbury to Clare and John Miles, a son, a brother for Eleanor.

PILSWORTH on December 18th to Stella (née More) and Mick, a son, Thomas James, a brother for Rosa.

PROCKTER. – On December 19th to Gwyneth (née Bumford) and Adrian a son David Charles.

RABL. On December 17, to Sarah and Preston, a daughter.

ROTHERMEL – on 14th December 1984, to Cecilia and Rolf, twin boys, Felix and Rolf.

TULLOCH – On December 9th to Jane (nee Challis) and David, a daughter, Charlotte Elizabeth, a sister for Felicity and Alexia.

WEASER. On December 16 at St Lukes Hospital, to Kathryn (nee Knight) and Alan, a daughter, Alexandra Claire, a sister for Susannah

BIRTHDAYS

GIDDS, Amanda (Liv.) Christ's College, Cambridge Congratulations 21st birthday. Much happiness. Mother and Father

MILLS & BOON wishes its Chairman, John Boon, a Happy Birthday and thanks him for all the help he has given the Company over many years.

DEATHS

ALGIE – on 19th December 1984. Peacefully at Church Cottage in the late afternoon, Richard Fanshawe, dearly beloved husband of Hilary and the late Dilys. Funeral service at Cheltenham Crematorium on 27th December, at 2 pm.

BELL – Diane, peacefully on 18th December 1984, much loved mother of Veronica and grandmother of Colin, Fiona and Sula. Enquiries to W. Wright & Son Emsworth, Emsworth 2288. Funeral service Warblington Church on Thursday 3rd January at 11 am followed by interment.

BENN, John Andrews. – On December 19, peacefully at his home, after a short illness. Funeral service to be held at Hurst Green Methodist Church on Tuesday, December 27 at 11.30 am. Flowers may be sent to Ebbutt Funeral Service. Telephone Oxted 3767.

BOYLE. On December 19, suddenly, but peacefully, in her 76th year at Willow Farm, Kirby Cross, Frinton-on-Sea. Eithne Maud, very sadly missed mother, grandmother and aunt. Family funeral on Monday, December 24. No flowers at her request, but donations to be divided between her favourite charities to the Manager, National Westminster Bank, Frinton-on-Sea. Memorial service to be held at St Michael's Church, Kirby-le-Soken, at 11.30 am on January 26, 1985.

CLAYE. – on December 18, Rachael Jeanette, (Netta) (nee Deben). Service of thanksgiving at Hyde Parish [illegible]

IN MEMORIAM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr Richard J. M. Williams has joined BYBLOS BANK S.A.L. as General Manager – United Kingdom and Mr Souheil F. Azar has been appointed Assistant General Manager – United Kingdom. Both posts are based in London.

REMEMBER A DEPARTED FRIEND With a tribute that blooms in lasting happiness for old people. There is no more fitting memorial to a loved one than to link your regard with enduring work for the lonely or frail. Every £ you give towards a Day Centre or medical assistance among elderly people in great need achieves a great deal, thanks to volunteers all over Britain. Please send your gift with the name you wish to commemorate to: The Hon Treasurer, The Rt Hon Lord Maybray-King, Help the Aged, Project 40221T, Freepost, London EC1B 1BD (No stamp needed)

DAME VERA LYNN'S Africa Famine Appeal: "The most precious gift you can give this Christmas is the gift of life to a hungry child". Donations please to Dame Vera Lynn, YCare International (T), 640 Forest Road, London E17.

McLAUGHLIN, JACK. – Ex UK/Uganda/Zimbabwe passed away 25th November in S. Africa. Deeply mourned by Marjorie and family. Present address of Marjorie, The Cottage, Hope of Constantia, Constantia, Capetown, S. Africa.

ANGELICA STEPHENSON. two hearts are better than one. Stolen from Africa, twenty one in Brittanica. Happy Birthday. love Peter.

JULIE'S RESTAURANT & BAR will be closed from December 24th-27th. We wish all our customers a happy Christmas and New Year.

LOINSMACS. You are my Sunshine through thick and thin and down all the days. Wherever I am, you are in my heart. Crazy Lady.

JIMMY HILL will pass on his message tomorrow. (R.F.H.).

THANK YOU. St Christopher. M.R.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman & Directors of
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IN SUBSTITUTION for numerous Christmas cards. Much love to everybody at Christmas. Martin B.

SO NOW SO, to my darling Missy at Christmas. Amor always, Matthew.

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Entertainments

Continued from page 27

CINEMAS

ACADEMY 1. 437 2981. The Tavianis' KAOS (15). Sep perfs: Wkdys 2.30, 7.25, Suns 3.40, 7.25. Cinema closed 24-26 Dec.

ACADEMY 2. 437 5129. Satyajit Ray's THE HOME AND THE WORLD (U). Daily at 3.10, 5.45, 8.25. Cinema closed 24-26 Dec.

ACADEMY 3. 437 8819. Marcel Carne's LES ENFANTS DU PARADIS (PG). Film at 4.10, 7.30. Cinema closed 24 – 26 Dec.

BARBICAN CINEMA. 01-628 8795. Student reducts on all perfs. TODAY at 6.00 & 8.00 GHOSTBUSTERS (PG). Barbican Centre Closed Dec 24 & 25.

BARBICAN CINEMA 628 8795. Student reducts on all perfs. Today Children's Cinema Club (Instant Membership). 11.00 & 2.30 ANIMAL FARM. Ton't 6.45 NASTASSJA KINSKI in PARIS, TEXAS (15).

CAMDEN PLAZA 485 2443 (opp. Camden Town Tube). Eric Rohmer's FULL MOON IN PARIS (15). Film at 2.05, 4.15, 6.30, 8.50. Closed 24 & 25 Dec.

CHELSEA CINEMA 351 3742 Kings Road (Nearest Tube Sloane Sq). ERIC ROHMER'S FULL MOON IN PARIS (15). Film at 2.05, 4.15, 6.30, 8.50. Advance Booking for last perf. only. Access/Visa. Closed 24 & 25 Dec.

CURZON, Curzon St, W1. 499 3737. Christopher Reeve, Vanessa Redgrave in The Merchant Ivory Production of THE BOSTONIANS (PG) "Superbly made and acted" D Tel. film at 1.15 (not Sun), 3.30, 6.00 & 8.40. Closed Dec 24/25.

GATE BLOOMSBURY 1 & 2 837 8402/1177. Russell Sq. Tube. 1: 1984 (15) 2.30, 4.40, 6.50, 9.00. Cinema 2: Repertory. Lic'd Bar. Access/Visa.
GATE NOTTING HILL 221 0220/727 5750. LE BAL (PG) 4.40, 6.50, 9.00. LN. 11.15pm THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW (15), MYRA BRECKENRIDGE (18).

LEICESTER SQUARE THEATRE (930 5252) THE LAST STARFIGHTER (PG). Sep progs Daily 1.00, 3.35, 6.10, 8.50. Late Night show Fri & Sat 11.45pm. Advance Booking for all performances. Telephone bookings with Access and Visa welcome.

LUMIERE CINEMA 836 0691. St Martin's Lane (Nearest Tube Leicester Sq). ETTORE SCOLA'S LE BAL (PG). Film at 1.45, 4.00, 6.20, 8.45. Advance Booking for 6.20 & 8.45 Perfs only. Closed 24 & 25 Dec.

MINEMA KNIGHTSBRIDGE 235 4225. Closed for refurbishment. Re-opens Jan 10, with Les Chiens.

ODEON HAYMARKET (930 2738). A PRIVATE FUNCTION (15) Sep progs Dly 2.15, 6.15, 8.45. Late Night Show Fri & Sat 11.15pm. All seats bookable in Advance. Access and Visa telephone bookings welcome. "The comedy of the year" DAILY MAIL.

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE (930 6111) Info. 930 4250/4259. GHOSTBUSTERS (PG) in 70mm Sep progs Doors open daily 1.45, 4.55, 8.00. Late shows Fris & Sats Doors 11.15pm. [illegible]

SCREEN ON BAKER ST. Tel: 935 2772. (1) CAL (15) 2.20, 4.30, 6.45, 9.00. (2) PARIS TEXAS (15). 2.30, 5.30, 8.30. Fri/Sat 11.30. Lic bar. Tickets bookable.

SCREEN ON ISLINGTON GREEN. 226 3520 (Angel tube) THE KILLING FIELDS (15) 2.30, 5.15, 8.15. Fri/Sat 11.15. Evng perf bookable in advance. In Dolby stereo.

SCREEN ON THE HILL 435 3366 (opp Belsize Pk tube). The new version of the classic METROPOLIS (PG). 3.25, 5.15, 7.15, 9.15. Lic bar. Seats bookable. In Dolby stereo.

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BRITISH LIBRARY/British Museum, Great Russell Street, WC1: Anglo-Saxon Art 966-1066: weekdays 10-5, Sunday 2.30-6; admission £2.00; recorded info 01-580 1788. Closed 24, 25, 26 Dec and 1 Jan.

BROWSE & DARBY, 19 Cork St, W1. 01-734 7984. DIANA ARMFIELD: Recent paintings.

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Women in the Navy

هكذا من الأصل

Today's television and radio programmes

Summaries by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

BBC 1

Ceefax AM. News headlines, weather, traffic and sports bulletins. Also available to viewers with television sets without the teletext facility.

Breakfast Time with Selina Scott and Nick Ross. News from Fern Britton at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 with headlines on the quarter hours and at 8.59; sport at 6.40 and 7.40; regional news, weather and traffic at 6.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; programme choice at 6.55; a review of the morning newspapers at 7.18 and 8.18.

Food and Drink, presented by Chris Kelly, includes items on the best buys in Christmas puddings; how to make the best home-made wine; and an outside broadcast report from Exmoor where the locals celebrate the season in individual style (shown yesterday) 9.30 Ceefax 10.30 Play School (r). 10.50 Ceefax.

News After Noon with Richard Whitmore and Moira Stuart. The weather prospects come from Ian McCaskill 12.57 Regional news (London and SE only: Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles).

Pebble Mill at One. The final edition until after Christmas is in the form of a party with lots of music, laughs and guests 1.45 Little Misses and the Mister Men (r).

Living on the Land. John Seymour explains how he became self-sufficient almost by accident (r).

Film: Too Many Girls* (1940) starring Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz. An heiress decides to attend her father's old college and four young footballers are hired to protect her. Directed by George Abbott 3.48 Regional news (not London).

Play School, presented by Ben Thomas 4.10 The Family-Ness 4.15 Jackanory. Michael Barrymore reads the final part of The Land of Green Ginger 4.30 Benji, Zax and the Alien Prince 4.50 Hartbeat. Tony Hart controls drawing implements to create several pictures 5.10 Crackerjack 5.58 Weather.

News with Sue Lawley and Nicholas Witchell.

London Plus.

Cartoon. Bugs Bunny in Haredevil Hare.

Match of the Day Live, introduced by Jimmy Hill. Barry Davies is at Loftus Road to commentate on the game between Queen's Park Rangers and Liverpool, both teams struggling to find the form of which they are capable.

News with Julia Somerville.

Film: Scorpio (1972) starring Burt Lancaster, Alain Delon and Paul Scofield. Spy thriller about an ageing CIA agent whose superiors believe has sold out to the Russians and of the agency's attempts to eliminate the agent. Set in Washington, Vienna and Paris. Directed by Michael Winner.

Macmillan at War. The Third and final part of the series based on Lord Stockton's War Diaries. In tonight's edition he talks to Ludovic Kennedy about the time when, as Churchill's political adviser, he was involved in one of the most controversial decisions of the Second World War. It was the time when 40,000 Cossacks and White Russians who had supported the Germans against the Russians were forcibly handed over to the Russians.

Late Night in Concert. Linda Ronstadt with Nelson Riddle and his Orchestra in concert at Santa Barbara, California.

Weather.

TV-am

6.25 Good Morning Britain presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen. News with Jayne Irving at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.30; sport at 6.39 and 7.37; guests, Timothy West, Duncan Goodhew and Anne Patterson, from 6.45; exercises at 6.46 and 9.20; the day's anniversaries at 6.51; Wham pop video at 7.45; Jeni Barnett's postbag at 8.25; a children's choir sing a Christmas carol at 8.22; Jimmy Greaves's television highlights at 8.34; Jan Walsh's consumer report at 7.10 and 8.47.

ITV/LONDON

9.25 Thames news headlines followed by Sesame Street where the Muppets make learning fun 10.25 Let's Pretend to the Adventures of a Jelly 10.40 Razzmatazz. Pop music show presented by Alastair Pirrie.

11.05 BMX Beat. Four experts in the Northern BMX final, held in Border Television's purpose-built arena in Carlisle. 11.30 Rainbow Christmas Show. A pantomime special (r).

12.00 The Sooty Christmas Show. with Matthew Corbett (r) 12.30 Never Too Early, Never Too Late. Aspects of education.

1.00 News at One with Leonard Parkin 1.20 Thames news from Robin Houston.

1.30 Father Murphy. A young girl's protestations of love force Murphy to reveal his feelings for Mae Woodward.

3.15 Thames news headlines 3.20 University Challenge. The deciding leg of the final between the University of St Andrews and the Open University 3.50 Illusions. Fergus Roy examines some of the tricks that have become magician's classics.

4.15 Theatre Box: You Must Believe All This, by Adrian Mitchell. Four young Victorian children experience a generation gap with grown-ups at a christening (r). 5.15 Blockbusters. General knowledge quiz for teenagers.

5.45 News 6.00 The 6 O'Clock Show. Michael Aspel and his team take a lighthearted look at life in London.

7.00 Bruce Forsyth's Play Your Cards Right. Two couples test their knowledge of public opinion and their luck at the turn of a card.

7.30 Hallelujah! The final programme of the comedy series starring Thora Hird as Salvation Army Captain Emily Ridley (Oracle).

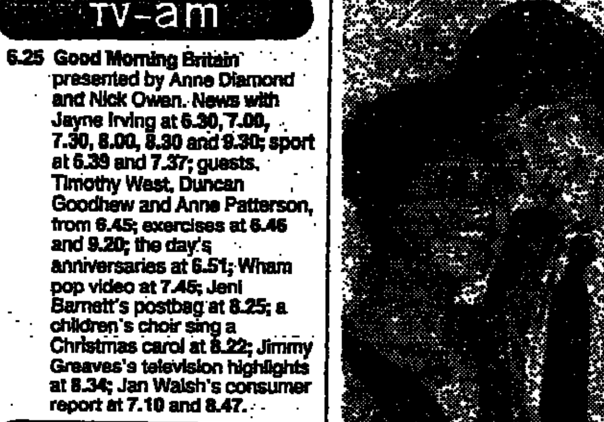
8.00 Finnegan, Begin Again. Mary Tyler Moore and Robert Preston star in this comedy drama about widowed art teacher Liz DeHaan who is having an affair with a married undertaker. Into her life strides Michael Finnegan, an Agony Uncle, who may have the answer to her problem (see Choice).

10.00 News at Ten.

10.30 James Mason – The Star They Loved to Hate. A profile of the late actor including an interview with the star himself, clips from some of his films and a contribution from one of his co-stars and personal friend, Ann Todd (see Choice).

11.30 Film: Georgy Girl* (1966) starring Lynn Redgrave, James Mason, Alan Bates and Charlotte Rampling. An amusing story of how love came into the life of the plain Georgy, a dancing teacher who shares a flat with a somewhat promiscious friend. When her flat-mate's antics get too much for the friend's lover, he turns to Georgy for solace. Directed by Silvio Narizzano.

1.20 Night Thoughts.



Mary Tyler Moore and Sam Waterston (ITV, 8.00 pm)

CHOICE

● It is one of the tragedies of life that good intentions are so often overtaken by more pressing matters, like death. James Mason, in one of the interview snippets that break up the generous selection of film clips in Trish Kinane's documentary **THE STAR THEY LOVED TO HATE** (ITV, 10.30pm), tells the interviewer Shelley Rohde, that he had not yet formulated his ideas about trying to do the right thing according to his own set of standards. But time ran out for Mr Mason. He died a few months later. Tonight's profile of the actor, does, however, manage to say quite a lot about the nonconformist standards he adopted during the period of his career when his offscreen reputation for upsetting people matched his on-screen propensity for treating women in an ungentlemanly fashion (a whipping for Margaret Lockwood, a slap for Judy Garland, a taste of the stick for Ann Todd). Miss Rohde found Mason in a mellow mood, befitting his 75 years. There is no trace of the glowering old rebel in the quiet man who reveals that he cannot speak the closing lines in *A Star is Born*, one of his better movies, because to do so would bring tears to his eyes.

● **FINNEGAN, BEGIN AGAIN** (ITV, 8.00pm) is a love story that almost pulls a muscle so hard does it try to be something else. And although it looks as American as a Fourth of July parade, it is officially British. I can explain its pedigree more easily than I can explain its character because to do the latter would spoil your enjoyment of what is a warm and witty, touching and scatty, and wholly unpredictable story, with two absolutely first-rate performances from Robert Preston and Mary Tyler Moore as, respectively, autumn and spring, and a good one from Sam Waterston, as a showery summer. The stars, then, are American. So is the director (Joan Micklin Silver), and so are the setting and the writer (Walter Lockwood). But the cash that made it possible is British, and so is Zenith, the production company. Television-wise, hands can rarely have reached across the Atlantic to happier effect.

● Leo McKern's readings from his autobiography (Radio 4, 10.15pm) continues with memories of Wolfit, worshipped by McKern, while realizing that the actor/manager was convinced that nothing interesting could possibly happen on any stage devoid of Wolfit.

Peter Davalle

BBC 2

9.00 Ceefax.

3.35 Sports Review of 1984. A repeat of the programme shown on Sunday when more than 400 sporting personalities re-lived the sporting highlights of the year and acclaimed Torvill and Dean as the Sports Personalities of the Year – and who could argue with that?

5.15 News summary with subtitles.

5.20 Open to Question. HRH The Princess Anne faces the questioning of 80 Scots teenagers, recorded by BBC Scotland on the eve of the Princess's last visit to the Third World in her capacity as President of the Save the Thildren Fund.

6.00 The Invaders. Science fiction adventure starring Roy Thinnes as David Vincent, a man on the trail of aliens who have landed on Earth.

6.50 Choir of the Year 1984. The second semi-final of the competition organised by Sainbury's. Cliff Morgan introduces the six choirs who are striving for the remaining three places in the final.

7.30 Wildlife on Two: Aliens from Inner Space. David Attenborough narrates this documentary about cuttlefish, squids and octopuses – cephalods that transmit colour patterns of breathtaking beauty. Are they talking to each other when they do? Or are the trying to communicate with humans? (r) (Ceefax).

8.00 Call My Bluff. Robert Robinson is in the chair as Arthur Marshall's team of Sue MacGregor and Nicky Henson challenge Frank Muir, Joanna Lumley and John Dunn to a test of wordy wits.

8.30 Italians. The tenth and final portrait of Italy as seen through the eyes of different Italians. This evening's subject is 20-year old Natiria Manglaviti who, in a week's time, marries a man with whom she has never before been alone.

9.00 M*A*S*H. Hotlips decides to fill a time capsule with artefacts of the 4077th so that the station will be remembered for posterity.

9.25 Fanny and Alexander. A preview to set the scene for the television version of Ingmar Bergman's extravaganza which begins on Sunday.

9.30 Arena: What's Cuba Playing At? On the 25th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution, Arena traces the Afro-Spanish roots of the country's rich musical history.

10.45 Newsnight.

11.30 Film: Roseland (1977) starting Geraldine Chaplin, Christopher Walken and Teresa Wright. Three portraits of love, loneliness and ambition set against the background of one of New York's famous ballrooms. Directed by James Ivory. Ends at 1.15.

CHANNEL 4

2.30 Treasure Hunt. Anneka Rice flies over the Lake District guided by treasure hunters Adrienne and Brian Lee. (r)

3.30 Film: Wild Stallion* (1953) starring Alain Emery. A touching story, directed by Albert Lamorisse of The Red Balloon fame, about a young boy who dreams of taming a wild white horse that roams the desolate Camargue region of France.

4.15 Countdown. The final of the fifth series is between the number eight seed Robert Violett of Hemel Hempstead and Peter Evans, the number three seed from Coventry.

5.00 The Addams Family* Uncle Fester is in a panic after learning that his pen-pal is coming to stay. He has described himself as handsome and romantic. What can he do to come anywhere near that description?

5.30 The Tube, presented by Jools Holland, Paula Yates and Muriel Gray. On the bill tonight are Alexei Sayle, the Waterboys, Toy Dolls, Paul Weller and Rory Bremner. Paul Young is on film and there is an interview with that master of the English language, Stanley Unwin.

7.00 Channel Four News.

7.30 Right to Reply. Two women viewers charge the makers of Twenty Twenty Vision's series on child sex abuse with concentrating more on the offenders than on the children.

8.00 What the Papers Say. Peter McKay, Washington correspondent of the Daily Mail, casts a critical eye over how the Press has treated the week's news.

8.15 A Week in Politics includes an interview with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Douglas Hurd; a report on the year of the miners; and Christmas gift suggestions for Mrs Thatcher.

9.00 Tell the Truth. Which of three guests has a genuine claim to fame? Graeme Garden's panel of Diane Harron, Jack Tinker, Patricia Brake and Bernard Falk try to find out.

9.30 Gardeners' Calendar, presented by Hannah Gordon from the Royal Horticultural Society's garden at Wisley. December chores include maintenance work in the rock garden, by the pond and around the herb wheel.

10.00 Newhart. American comedy series starring Bob Newhart.

10.35 Ian Breakwell's Christmas Diary. Thoughts on a Glasgow Big Top.

10.45 Film: Battle of Algiers* (1966) starring Jean Martin. The first showing on British television for this brutal and controversial film, directed by Gillo Pontecorvo, about Algeria's eight year fight for independence from France.

12.55 Closedown.

Radio 4

5.55 Shipping.
6.00 News Briefing; Weather. 6.10 Farming Today. 6.25 Prayer.
6.30 Today, including 6.30, 7.30, 8.30 News. 6.55, 7.55 Weather. 7.00, 8.00 News. 7.25, 8.25 Sport. 7.45 Thought for the Day. 8.35 Yesterday in Parliament. 8.50 Your Letters. 8.57 Weather.
9.00 News.
9.05 Desert Island Discs. The castaway is Ray Cooney, Artistic Director of the Theatre of Comedy. (r). †
9.45 Silent Night. Kevin Crossley-Holland traces the history of the much-loved Christmas song. †
10.00 News; International Assignment.
10.30 Morning Story: 'A Family Affair' by Alphonse Daudet. Read by David March.
10.45 Daily Service Advent Calender: The Prophecies of Isiah. †
11.00 News; Travel; The Snow-Baby. A portrait of Alison Uttley, the creator of the Little Grey Rabbit and other animal characters. (r)
11.48 I Beg Your Pardon? with Michael Jordan.
12.00 News; You and Yours: Trevor Barnes talks to people who suffer from loneliness at Christmas.
12.27 Top Of The Form. The Final: 15. North (1). 12.55 Weather.
1.00 The World at One: News.
1.40 The Archers. 1.55 Shipping.
2.00 News: Woman's Hour from Manchester. Includes a new look at some old Christmas beliefs.
3.00 News; Master's India. An 18-part serialisation of of John Masters' saga. Book Three: The Lotus and the Wind. (3) Levels of Deception. †(r)
4.00 News: Just After Four: 'Off the Record. . .' - Roger Worsley with his own early hit list of music hall recording pioneers.
4.10 The Case Of Dr Dodd by Frank Doherty. With With Paul Webster as Dr Johnson.
4.40 Story Time: 'The Lovely Lady' by D H Lawrence. Abridged in two episodes. Read by Rachel Herbert.
5.00 PM: News Magazine.
6.00 The Six O'Clock News;
6.30 Going Places. Clive Jacobs and his team investigate travel and tranport in Denmark.
7.00 News.
7.05 The Archers.
7.20 Pick Of The Week. With Margaret Howard.
8.20 Stop Press. Nigel Rees examines the way the newspapers have behaved this wek.
8.45 Any Questions? from London. With David Steel MP, Enoch Powell MP, Lord Soper, David Frost and John Simpson.
9.30 Letter From America by Alistair Cooke.
9.45 Kaleidoscope: 'The Adventures of Mazeppa and the Sugar Plum Fairy' - Michael Billington on two new productions of Tchaikovsky's 'The Nutcracker and 'Mazeppa'.
10.15 A Book At Bedtime: 'Just Resting'. Leon McKern reads another extract from his recently published autobiography. (5).
10.29 Weather.
10.30 The World Tonight.
11.15 Financial World Tonight.
11.30 Week Ending. Satirical review.
12.00 News, Weather.
VHF (available in England and S Wales only). Radio 4 VHF is as above, except: 5.55-6.00am Weather; Travel 1.55-2.00pm Listening Corner 5.50-2.00pm PM (continued) 11.00-12.00 Study On 4.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather. 7.00 News.
7.05 Morning Concert: Holst's Fugal Overture; Korngold's Violin Concerto (Perlman is soloist): Haydn's Parti Rinaldo . . . Se pietade avente, on Numi (Jessye Norman); Smetena's Vltava (Ma Vlast) †. 8.00 News.
8.05 Morning Concert (contd.): Rachmaninov's Vocalise; Ibert's Entracte (Larde/Santos): Mozart's Sonata in F, K 332 (Uchida, piano); C P E Bach's Symphony in D, Wq 183 No 1.
9.05 This Week's Composer; Bizet. Act one of Carmen. With Julia Migenes Johnson in the title role, Domingo as Don José, and Faith Esham as Micaela. Maazel conducts the French National Orchestra †.
10.00 Three Romantic Piano Sonatas: Edith Vogel plays Brahms's Op 5 †.
10.40 Bournemouth Sinfonietta: BBC Singers, with Jonathan Robarts (baritone), Jeremy White (bass), Tracey Chadwell (soprano). Finzi's In Terra Pax and Vaughan Williams's Epithalamion †.
11.40 Cameristi of London: Bruch's Four Pieces; and Schumann's Marchenerzahlungen Op 132 †.
12.15 Midday Concert: BBC Scottish SO (under Maksymiuk). With Frank Lloyd (horn). Part one. Vaughan Williams's Fantasia on theme of Thomas Tallis; Mozart's Horn Concerto No 4 †. 1.00 News.
1.05 The Secret Sin of Septimus Brope: Saki's strory is read by Peter Howell.
1.20 Concert: part two. Stravinksy's Symphony in C †.
1.55 Poulenc and Satie: Koenig Ensemble, with Jan Latham-Koenig (piano), David Wilson-Johnson (baritone), and Judith Hall (flute). Satie's La Piege de Meduse; Poulenc's Sonata for flute and piano; Satie's Trois petites Pièces montées; Poulenc's Le bal Masqué †.
2.40 Britten and Bridge: Britten's Canadian Carnival Op 19 and the Scottish Ballad Op 26 (Donohoe and Fowke, pianos); and Bridge's There is a Willow Grows Aslant a Brook †.
3.25 W. F. Bach Keyboard Music: Alan Cuckston plays works including the Polonaise No 6 in E flat minor; F 12 No 6; and Sonata No 4 in D major, F4 †.
4.00 Choral Evensong. From Gloucester Cathedral. 4.55 News.
5.00 Mainly for Pleasure: Christmas music, presented by Fritz Spiegl. Includes excerpts from Handel's Messiah †.
6.30 Music for guitar: Carlos Bonell's recital includes works by Villa-Lobos, Pujol and Poncel †.
7.00 Broomhouse Reach: the fifth of Colin McLaren's six movements. With David de Keyser as the forgotten composer and Tim Davies as the hapless musicologist †.
7.30 Nash Ensemble: part one. Mozart's Serenade in E flat K 375; and Barber's Summer Music †.
8.10 Ancient Medicine: a talk by Mark Geller, an Assyriologist at University College, London †.
8.30 Nash Ensemble: part two. Hummel's Partita in E flat; Poulenc's Sextet for piano and wind †.
9.15 Seasonal Music: BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, BBC Northern Singers, Chethams Girls Choir, Anthony Rolfe Johnson (tenor). Part one. Stephen Dodgson's motet The Innocents (Stephen Wilkinson conducts) †.
9.35 Pleasure, Voyages and the Mad Doctor of Canton: Norman Rodway reads from the William Hickey memiors (r).
9.55 Seasonal Music: Britten's cantata: St Nicholas (Nicholas Cleobury conducts) †.
11.00 Ayres for the Theatre: the Parley of Instruments in Purcell's Distress'd Innocence, or The Princess of Persia †.
11.20 Malcolm Binns: Haydn's Sonatas in A (H XVI 26) and E flat (H XVI 52) played on the fortepiano †.
11.57 News. Until 12.00.
VHF only: 12.00 midnight until 12.20am. Open University.

Radio 2

4.00am Colin Berry.† 5.30 Ray Moore.† 7.30 Terry Wogan† incl 8.31 Racing. 10.00 Jimmy Young.† 12.00 Steve Jones † incl. 1.05 Sports Desk. 2.00 Gloria Hunniford's Christmas Concert. Carols played by the Salvation Army. Incl. 2.02; 3.02 Sports Desk. 3.30 Music All The Way.† 4.00 David Hamilton† incl. 4.02; 5.05 Sport Desk. 6.00 John Dunn† incl. 6.02 Sports Desk. 6.45 Sport and Classified Results (mf only). 8.00 Friday Night is Music Night.† 9.15 The Organist Entertains. With Nigel Ogden. 9.55 Sports Desk. 10.00 The Random Jottings of Hinge and Bracket. 10.30 Nights at the Pans Olympia. Daniel Pageon talks to Michael Legrand and others. 11.00 Stuart Hall (stereo from midnight). 1.00am Peter Dickson and Charles Nove.† 3.00 Big Band special.† 3.30-4.00 String Sound.†

Radio 1

6.00 Adrian John. 7.00 Mike Read. 9.00 Simon Bates. 12.00 Gary Davies incl. 12.30 Newsbeat. 2.30 Mark Page. 4.30 Select-a-Disc with Peter Powell. 5.30 Newsbeat. 5.45 Roundtable. 7.00 Andy Peebles. 10.00-12.00 The Friday Rock Show.† VHF Radios 1 & 2. 4.00am With Radio 2. 10.00pm With Radio 1. 12.00-4.00am With Radio 2.

WORLD SERVICE

6.00 Newsdesk. 7.00 World News. 7.09 Twenty-Four Hours. 7.30 Juke Box Dury. 7.45 Merchant Navy Programme. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Reflections. 8.15 The Classical Guitar. 8.30 William Revisited. 9.00 World News. 9.09 Review of the British Press. 9.15 The World Today 9.30 Financial News. 9.40 Look Ahead. 9.45 Not So Much A Hobby. 10.00 News Summary. 10.01 Cole Porter And His Music. 10.15 Merchant Navy Programme. 10.30 Business Matters. 11.00 World News. 11.09 News About Britain. 11.15 In The Meantime. 12.00 Radio Newsreel. 12.15 Jazz For The Asking. 12.45 Sports Roundup. 1.00 World News 1.09 Twenty Four Hours. 1.30 John Peel. 2.00 Outlook. 2.45 Letterbox 3.00 Radio Newsreel 3.15 Glen Miller – A String of Pearls. 4.00 World News 4.09 Commentary. 4.15 Science In Action. 4.45 The World Today 5.00 World News 5.09 Sarah And Company. 8.00 World News. 8.15 Music Now. 8.45 Nineteen Eighty-Four. 10.00 World News. 10.09 The World Today 10.25 Book Choice. 10.30 Financial News 10.40 Reflections. 10.45 Sports Roundup. 11.00 World News. 11.09 Commentary. 11.15 From The Weeklies. 11.30 Hollywood's Oscar Nights. 12.00 World News. 12.09 News about Britain. 12.15 Radio Newsreel. 12.30 About Britain. 12.45 Recording Of The Week. 1.00 News Summary. 1.01 Outlook. 1.30 Cole Porter And His Music. 1.45 Letterbox. 2.00 World News. 2.09 Review of the British Press. 2.15 Network UK. 2.30 People And Politics. 3.00 World News. 3.09 News About Britain. 3.15 The World Today. 3.30 Just A Minute. 4.00 Newsdesk. 4.30 That's Trad. 5.45 The World Today.

All times in GMT

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m; 1089kHz/275m; Radio 2: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m; Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m: VHF -90-92.5; Radio 4: 200kHz 1500m: VHF -92-95; LBC 1152kHz/261m; VHF 97.3; Capital: 1548kHz/194m: VHF 95.8; BBC Radio London 1458kHz/206m: VHF 94.9; World Service MF 648kHz/463m.

BBC1 WALES 12.57pm-1.00 News of Wales Headlines. 3.48.3.50 New Wales Headlines. 4.30-4.50 Hartseat. 4.50-5.30 Crackerjack. 5.30-5.35 Interval. 5.35-5.58 Wales Today. 6.30-7.05 The Good Life. 12.45am-12.50 News and weather. SCOTLAND 12.57pm-1.00 The Scottish News. 6.30-7.00 Reporting Scotland. 7.00-8.00 Circus Night Out. 8.00-8.30 City Lights. 8.30-9.00 Zoo 2000. 12.45pm-12.50 News and weather. NORTHERN IRELAND 12.57pm-1.00 Northern Ireland News. 3.48-3.50 Northern Ireland News. 6.30-6.55 Inside Ulster. 12.45-12.50 News and weather. ENGLAND 6.30pm-6.55 Regional news magazines.

BORDER As London except: 10.25am Wild World of Animals. 10.45 Illusions. 11.05-11.30 Gulliver. 1.20pm News. 1.30 Film: Never Mind the Quality Feel the Width. 3.00 University Challenge. 3.30-4.00 Young Doctors. 4.00-4.15 Cartoon. 6.00 Lookaround. 6.30-7.00 Take the High Road. 11.30 Gemma, Girls and Gershwin. 12.15am Star of Bethlehem. 12.20 News, Closedown.

YORKSHIRE As London except: 10.25am Cartoon. 10.35 Jacksons. 11.00-11.05 Star of Bethlehem. 1.20pm News. 1.30 Cop and the Anthem. 1.55 Piece of Cake. 2.20 BC, A Special Christmas. 2.50-3.20 Benson. 6.00 Calendar. 6.30-7.00 Diff'rent Strokes. 11.30 Gemma, Girls and Gershwin. 12.15am Late Night Drama. 12.45 Closedown.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

CHANNEL As London except: 9.25am Chips. 10.20 Short Story. 10.45-11.05 Intruders. 1.20pm News. 1.30-3.20 Film: Gentlemen-Prefer Blondes. 5.15-5.45 Ennerdale Farm. 6.00 Channel Report. 6.30 Crossroads. 6.55-7.00 What's on Where. 10.35 Film: Cry Terror (James Mason). 12.20am Closedown.

S4C Starts 1.00pm Countdown. 1.30 Alice. 2.00 5 Lôn Goch. 2.15 Interval. 3.00 Years Ahead. 3.45 Book 4. 4.15 Cartoon Carnival. 4.45 Hanner Awr Fwy. 5.30 The Tube. 7.00 Newyddion Saith. 7.30 Cyn Dyfod Y Dydd. 8.00 Pobol Y Cwm. 8.30 Y Byd Yn Ei Le. 9.15 It's Going To Be Alright. 9.45 Tell The Truth. 10.15 Film: Winter Flight. 12.10am Newhart. 12.35 Soap. 1.05 Closedown.

GRAMPIAN As London except: 10.25am Nutcraker. 10.55-11.05 Cartoon. 1.20 News. 1.30-3.20 Film: Amazing Mr Blunden. 6.00-7.00 North Tonight. 10.30 Crossfire. 11.30 James Mason. 12.00 Gemma, Girls and Dershwin. 12.40am News, Closedown.

HTV WEST As London except: 10.30am Star of Bethlehem. 10.35-11.05 European Folk Tales. 1.20pm News. 1.30-3.20 Film: Amazing Mr Blunden. 6.00 News. 6.30-7.00 Sidestep. 11.30 West This Year. 12.15am Five Ways of Christmas, Closedown.

HTV WALES As HTV West except: 6.00pm-7.00 Wales at Six. 11.30-12.15am Wales This Year.

TYNE TEES As London except: 10.25am Kum Kum. 10.45-11.05 Illusions. 1.20pm News. 1.30 Film: Black Swan (Tyrone Power). 3.00 Univirsity Challenge. 3.30 Sons and Daughters. 4.00-4.15 Smurfs. 6.00 News. 6.02 Whose Baby? 6.30-7.00 Northern Life. 11.30 Film: Five Fingers (James Mason). 1.30am Three's Company. Closedown.

ULSTER As London except: 10.25am Nutcracker. 11.00-11.05 Star of Bethlehem. 1.20pm Lunchtime. 1.30-3.20 Film: Lady Vanishes. 6.00 Good Evening Ulster. 6.20 Sportscast. 6.45-7.00 Advice with Anne Hailes. 11.30 Shared World. 12.00 News. Closedown.

CENTRAL As London except: 9.25am Star of Bethlehem. 9.30 Once Upon A Time . . . Man. 9.55 Falcon Island. 10.20-11.05 Christmas Story. 1.20pm News. 1.30-3.20 Film: Amazing Mr Blunden. 6.00-7.00 News. 11,30 Film: Wages of Fear (Roy Schieder). 1.10am Closedown.

ANGLIA As London except: 10.25am Cartoon. 10.45-11.05 Illusion. 1.30 Gorgo (Bill Travers). 3.00 University Challenge. 3.30 Sons and Daughters. 4.00-4.15 Cartoon. 6.00 About Anglia 1.25am What Christmas Means to Me. Closedown.

TSW As London except: 10.25am Born to Run. 10.45 White days, Red Nites. 11.00-11.05 Star of Bethlehem. 1.20pm News. 1.30 Film: Gentlemen Prefer Blondes (Jane Russell). 3.15-3.20 Gus Honeybun. 5.15-5.45 Emmerdale Farm 6.00 Today South West. 6.30-7.00 What's Ahead. 10.35 Cry Terror (James Mason). 12.20am Postscript. Closedown.

TVS As London except: 10.30am Santa's Pocket Watch. 10.55-11.05 Christmas visitor. 1.20pm News. 1.30 Jemima Shore Investigates. 2.30 Hotel. 3.05 Mr Magoo. 3.17 News. 3.20-3.50 Young Doctors. 6.00 Coast to Coast. 6.30-7.00 Keep it in the Family. 10.30 Star of Bethlehem. 10.35 James Mason 11.35 Georgy Girl. 1.20am Company, Closedown.

GRANADA As London except: 10.25 Matt and Jenny. 10.45-11.00 Illusions. 1.20pm News. 1.30 Just Our Luck. 2.00 Adventurer. 2.30 Glass Box. 3.00 University Challenge. 3.25 News. 3.30 Young Doctors. 4.00-4.15 Cartoon. 6.00 News. 6.05-7.00 Weekend. 1.25am Closedown.

SCOTTISH As London except: 10.25am Cinderalla. 10.40-11.05 Silver Spoons. 1.20pm News. 1.30 Fall Guy. 2.30 On the Market. 3.00 University Challenge. 3.30-3.50 Harlem Globetrotter. 6.00 News and Scotland Today. 6.30-7.00 Funny You Should Say That! 11.30 Late Call. 11.35 Magnum. 12.30am Closedown.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN
† Stereo. ★ Black and white. (r) Repeat

Entertainments

Continued on page 26

Homes evacuated as train explodes

By David Nicholson-Lord

Dozens of homes were evacuated and the main A6033 road across the Pennines was closed yesterday when a tanker train carrying heating oil caught fire and exploded after coming off the rails in the Summit Tunnel on the border of West Yorkshire.

Firemen narrowly escaped injury and had to run one and a half miles to safety out of the tunnel when gas and oil escaped from a ruptured tank and ignited, sending a fireball along the roof.

Huge spurts of flame and smoke could later be seen gushing out of ventilation shafts on to the moors endangering nearby cottages.

A spokesman for West Yorkshire fire brigade said the blaze could go on for "hours, days, even many days." Firemen with breathing apparatus later attempted to re-enter the two-mile-long tunnel but were withdrawn

Foam tenders and hydraulic platforms were brought in later yesterday in an attempt to tackle the blaze from the ventilation shafts. Thousands of gallons of high-expansion foam were poured into the tunnel.

One hundred and fifty local people were evacuated from their homes

Last night, with flames and smoke still visible from miles away, those who had left their homes were preparing to spend the night with relatives or at a local school



Rail explosion: The scene yesterday as flames spurted through the ventilation shaft of the Summit tunnel

Nigerian kidnap man seeks asylum

By Richard Dowden

Mr Umaru Dikko, the former Nigerian Transport Minister, who was rescued from a crate at Stansted airport after being kidnapped earlier this year, has applied for political asylum in Britain.

At present his home in Bayswater is guarded by local police and Diplomatic Protection Squad officers on the outside and Anti-Terrorist Squad and Special Branch officers inside. As the chief witness in the trial in February of his alleged kidnappers he is a very important man.

However, as soon as the trial ends the protection will be removed and Mr Dikko is known to be afraid that there will be other attempts to kidnap or kill him.

Although Mr Dikko is wanted for questioning in Nigeria on matters concerning public funds during his period in office, Nigeria has not officially requested his extradition. Britain has let it be known that extradition would be unlikely if he had to face trial by military tribunal as other officials of the previous government have had to do. On the other hand to give political asylum to Mr Dikko could damage Anglo-Nigerian relations.

Mr Dikko fled to Britain after the coup 12 months ago in Nigeria. He was found drugged in a wooden crate bound for Lagos in July after he had been kidnapped outside his home.

Letter from Kassala

Eking out a living till nothing was left

Things started going wrong for Kidane Waldegbrid and his wife three years ago. The first year of the drought in Ethiopia's Tigré province forced Kidane to sell two of his sheep, although they fetched 24 Ethiopian dollars each, a good price at the time and one that helped to feed his three children for a year.

The family lived in a single-room mud-and stone house with a wooden roof, although the way Kidane tells it now amid the thousands of famine victims outside Kassala, it sounds rather grand. But he was, after all, a farmer. The animals lived in a thatched corral that surrounded his little house in Entalo.

The second year of the drought, however, meant the sale of two more sheep. The money was eked out to feed the three children again, although nine months later the fifth and last sheep in Kidane's tiny farm had to be sold. Under the decrees of the Tigré People's Liberation Front – the guerrillas who hold most of Tigré – he became the "owner" of his farm six years ago. But Kidane realized this year that it was all over.

With his bullock, he could still work other people's land. "But there was no work to be done for richer people so I had to sell that too", he says. "I only got 40 dollars for the bullock. I had to feed my children. And when the crops failed the third time, I decided we should leave. "I sold my last animal, a donkey, in return for wheat that we could take with us on the journey to Sudan. No one wanted to pay money for the donkey. I even had to leave the bullock's yoke behind because I could not sell it."

Kidane Waldegbrid's story is a typical one among the 35,000 drought victims who have crossed from Sudan to Ethiopia, although, sitting on a sand dune with his grieving, bitter-faced wife beside him, he finds it difficult to tell of the tragedy that befell them.

"I felt like crying when I left my home," he says. "I thought: 'O God, where will my future be?' I thought of so many things – where could I take my children?"

Three months ago, Kidane trudged out of the Inderta district of Tigré with his wife Latazeicure and his three children, Hali, Maryam and Selamani. Hali was seven, Maryan three. Only Selamani, who is just one year old, was to survive.

"The journey took six weeks and we were fed by the TPLF," Kidane says. "We bought food from other people on the way. But it was bad food. Hali and Maryam became ill. They became very weak and looked hungry. They started to have diarrhoea. We reached Sudan but they were so thin. There was only a very poor clinic here. They didn't get proper treatment. They died."

Hali and Maryam lie now under a thin cover of earth beside a dried-up river bed only a few hundred yards from where their parents live with Selamani in a construction of sticks and corrugated iron with a mat on top.

Latazeicure sits most days with her head in her hands, only 38 years old but her face lined as if she is 60. Behind her, in a small cotton pouch on her back, nestles Selamani, a small brown hand emerging every few minutes to touch her head.

Kidane and his wife are a curiously gentle couple. He divorced his first wife and met Latazeicure when she herself was divorced and working in a bar. He is a year younger, a proud, handsome man with a thin moustache. He might have married a much younger woman but there is a concern about him when he looks at his wife. Ask why and he says: "I love her."

Kidane still finds it all hard to accept. He blames his tragedy on the drought, but he clearly hates the Ethiopian Government. "A farmer needs food and education for his children," he says. "But when government troops started burning the fields, what was I supposed to think? They are barbaric."

The couple sit on the edge of a dusty wadi in the cold evenings, not speaking but thinking of their home. Ask Kidane if he will return and he smiles for the first time. "When the drought is over – of course," he says. They all say that. But the thousands keep on coming from the other direction.

Robert Fisk

Dust and adrenalin for Gandhi

Continued from page 1

Riding with his wife, Sonia, in a motorcade of white cars, Mr Gandhi looks out at the Amethi Constituency. This is a poor area of Uttar Pradesh, peasant country. A landscape of hamlets with thatched mud-bricked cottages, women drawing water at wells, outdoor schools where children squat in lines in the dust.

Walls are plastered with posters of Rajiv and his mother, and the Congress Party emblem of an upraised right hand is everywhere. "Rajive come forward," the slogans say, "Your are the country's saviour."

The motorcade stops at a village and a crowd erupts, women on the sidelines, as Mr Gandhi strides through, waving and placing his palms together in greeting. Sonia, his wife, in a white sari hands out badges and pictures. In one village Mr Gandhi and a crowd watch, rapt, as a magician shuts a girl into a casket, apparently dismembers her in three sections, and then restores her.

In the next village, as people chant "Rajiv Gandhi, Zindabad" – "Long live Gandhi" – some women fall at his feet in respect. He does not like this and gently bends to help them up. In his modern way he makes a point of including women in his speeches, trying to draw them into the mainstream.

He says, politely, that he does not wish to discuss his opponent in Amethi, his sister-in-law Menaka Gandhi. An opinion poll says he will take 90 per cent of the vote here.

In the town of Musafirakhana a crowd of several thousands grows boisterous and people start crowding Mr Gandhi. A policeman moves in with his stave to push people back in the usual vigorous manner, but Mr Gandhi reaches forward and stays his hand.

This march to victory is an extraordinary spectacle. There is an outpouring of goodwill. People want to give this new man a chance. He has become the repository of their hopes, though he has little political experience and needs immense resources to manage this massive, complex and subtle society.

Heseltine faces inquiry on Levene

Continued from page 1

Minister, Mr Kinnock said the history of the Government's relationship with Mr Levens gave grounds for great suspicion.

The remark provoked the normally-adept Commons performer, Mr Biffen, into a gaffe when he said that a man successfully executing a job at £95,000 a year was a damned sight cheaper than a failure at half that price.

Prompted by Mr Heseltine he quickly rose to say that his comment should not be construed as casting any reflection on Mr Perry.

Miners vote out Rule 30

Continued from page 1

The area council, however softened the blow by rejecting an attempt to call off immediately the year-long national overtime ban in the area, although it is seeking a fresh mandate on whether it should be continued.

It also voted against an attempt to accept the 5.2 per cent wage offer from the coal board which has been rejected by the NUM on the ground that this area was a function of the national union. It also voted by a substantial majority to dissociate itself from the "superfluous" national and Nottinghamshire working miners committees which have brought a large number of court cases against the national union.

Mr Chadburn said the "independence" rule change did not mean the Nottinghamshire Area Council was a breakaway union. "Our members are altering the rules to protect themselves from the disciplinary rules of the national union. Our loyalties are to the national union and that is of paramount importance."

● Trade unions which are continuing to channel money to the NUM which has had its assets sequestrated on the orders of the High Court, are likely to face legal challenges by the firm of accountants acting as sequestrators.

A court action could be brought today against the National Union of Railwaymen by the sequestrators. Other miners' supporters last night expressed concern that the legal net would be cast more widely.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Exhibitions in progress

Oil paintings by Richard Wallace; Ginnel Gallery, 16 Lloyd St, Manchester; Mon to Fri 9 to 5.30, Sat 1 to 4; (ends Jan 11).

Samuel Johnson bicentenary exhibition: British Library, Great Russell St, EC1; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2.30 to 6; (ends Feb 24).

A Clue to History: portraits of writers from Shakespeare to Beckett; Writers Observed: photographs by Mark Gerson; and Verse and Visuals: Pete Laver, Dove Cottage and The Wordsworth Museum, Grasmere, Ambleside, Cumbria; Mon to Sat 10 to 4.30, Sun 11 to 4.30; (ends Jan 6).

TUA-Dimensioner: two dimensions: new art from sweden: Towner Art Gallery; High St, Old Town, Eastbourne; Tues to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5; (ends Jan 27).

Christmas music

The Lord Mayor's carol concert: Leeds Town Hall, today and tomorrow, 7.30.

Concert by the Parnassus Ensemble: Holy Trinity Church, Guildford, 7.45.

Christmas concert by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and Sinfonietta; Guildhall, Plymouth, 7.30.

Carols by Candlelight with the Bath Bach Choir; Pump Room, Bath, 7.30.

Carol concert; St David's Hall, Cardiff, 7.30.

Talks, lecutres

Illustrated lecutre on the work of Graham Sutherland, by Gordon Bennett; Carmarthen Museum Abergwili, Carmarthen, 7.

Anniversaries

Deaths: Benjamin Disraeli, Earl of Beaconsfield, prime minister 1868, 1874-80, London, 1804; Giovanni Boccaccio, author of the *Decameron*, Certaldo, Italy, 1375, James Parkinson, physician, London, 1924; F. Scott Fitzgerald, novelist, author of *The Great Gatsby*, Hollywood, 1940; Gladys Ripley, contralto, Chichester, 1955.

Top films

The top box-office films in London:
1 (1) Ghostbusters
2 (–) Dune
3 (2) Gremlins
4 (4) A Private Function
5 (3) The Killing Fields
6 (–) The Last Starfighter
7 (6) 1984
8 (–) The Jungle Bock
9 (5) Give My Regards to Broad Street
10 (7) The Woman in Red

The top films in the provinces:
1 Ghostbusters
2 Gremlins
3 1984
4 Give My Regards to Broad Street
5 The Woman in Red

Top video rentals

1 (1) The Empire Strikes Back
2 (5) Trading Places
3 (9) The Evil That Men Do
4 (2) Sudden Impact
5 (6) Uncommon Valour
6 (3) Educating Rita
7 (14) Scarface
8 (7) Greystroke: The Legend of Tarzan
9 (10) Tootsie
10 (4) Terms of Endearment

Snow reports

The following reports have been supplied by a tourist board:

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	State of Piste	Weather	°C
SWITZERLAND					
Adelboden	5	20	pwdr	–	-7
Andermatt	20	100	pwdr	–	-5
Braunwald	20	35	pwdr	–	-4
Champery	5	20	pwdr	–	-3
Davos	10	30	pwdr	–	-10
Engleberg	10	60	pwdr	–	-7
Gstaad	9	100	pwdr	–	-9
Kandersteg	10	30	pwdr	–	-5
Klosters	20	110	pwdr	–	-7
Lenzerheide	30	50	pwdr	–	-12
Murren	30	60	pwdr	–	-5
Pontresina	30	110	pwdr	–	-16
Saas-Fe	20	140		–	-3
St Moritz	40	50	pwdr	–	-12
Savognin	30	50	pwdr	–	-8
Unterwasser	5	30	pwdr	–	-8
Verbier	5	100	pwdr	–	-8
Villars					
Wengen	10	30	pwdr	–	-7
ITALY					
Bormio	0	50			
Canazei	5	50			
Cervinia	50	140			
Claviere	35	50			
Cortina	10	80			
Courmayeur	40	120			
Livigno	40	70			
Madesimo	80	180			
Madonna di C.	60	160			
Ortisei	10	50			
San Martino	15	40			
Selva	20	40			
Vigiteno	20	40			

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,617

ACROSS

1 After complicated ascent, line makes descent (8).
5 Record curves round in grate (6).
10 Labour leader took sheep, for instance, to old farmer (6,9)
11 Something pleasant can be changed any time (7).
12 One giving shape to crumble (7).
13 Compact expression of intent from Madame Defarge & Co. (4-4).
15 Stamp trade out (5).
18 Flower Diana's plucked from catastrophe (5).
20 A second output device for computer, one going fast (8).
23 What finishes out (true!) of touch (7).
25 Weariness of posh soldier retreating in downfall (7).
26 Shuffle & Co., an alliance producing liquid asset in Scotland (10,5).
27 Try putting a little iron round stronghold (6).
28 18 is such a master (8).

DOWN

1 A secondary route out of the country (6).
2 Qualified to pound out whole books (9).
3 One animal from a pair that's left (7).
4 Funny kind of game . . . (5).
6 . . . one in which strikers go through the hoop (7).
7 The prize is a watch (5).
8 Characters of old used in time to see the sights of fabulous city (2,6).
9 Sword, that's one to damage it internally (8).
14 Young bird settling comfortably (8).
16 Soldiers get up before general, with church coming out (9).
17 It's cheap, making an imitation work (8).
19 Score in game put up or down (7).
21 Spotted, like a plain cake (7).
22 Fair ladies, one of them titled, in New York (6).
24 Ruler of half a state (5).
25 A little bit of adverse criticism has point (5).

Solution of Puzzle No 16,616

Prize Crossword in The Times tomorrow

Food prices

Those who have not yet bought their Christmas dinner need have no fears; there is still a wide choice available. Turkeys are plentiful, with prices ranging from around 50p *a lb for frozen birds to between £1* and £1.10 for fresh birds that have been properly hung. Bejam have issued a reminder that any frozen bird must be fully thawed before cooking, if necessary by standing it in a plastic bag, changing the water frequently until there is no ice left in the cavity. If you prefer red meat, beef and pork are excellent value. Topside and silverside range from £1.90 to £2.30 a lb, fore-rib from £1.36 to £1.68, rump steak from £2.50 to £3.20. Whole leg of pork is £1 to £1.30, boneless shoulder £1 to £1.40. Whole leg of lamb is still good value at £1.50 to £1.80 a lb.

Vegetables and fruit are in record supply, and many prices are lower in real terms than 20 years ago. There have been bumper crops of potatoes, carrots, parsnips and onions, which are all good value, as are cabbages at 12-18p a lb for green, 16-22p for Savoy. Brussels sprouts are plentiful and excellent at 15-20p a lb. Apples and oranges are cheaper than they were last year; Cox's 25-40p a lb, Russets 28-38p, Granny Smiths 25-38p. Navelinas and Jaffa 8-20p each, according to size. Lovely juicy satsumas 24-32p a lb, clementines 35-45p. Exotic fruits are becoming increasingly popular; lychees are £1.25 to £1.80 a lb, mangos 70p to £1.40 each, depending on size, passion fruit 15-22p each, pawpaws 70p to £1.30 each.

Good buys from large stores and supermarkets include: Safeway: Christmas pudding, 1lb, £1.39; six mince pies 55p; cherry Genoa cake, 2lb 2oz, £3.49; mixed nuts and raisins in 650g resealable tub: £1.79. Sainsbury's: Whole frozen turkeys 52p a lb, self-basting 54p; half gammon boneless joints £1.88 a lb; beef topside £1.98; mince pies 39p a half dozen. Tesco: Frozen turkeys Grade A, 52p a lb; beef topside or silverside £1.88, fore-rib (bone in) £1.68, frozen half leg of pork 89p; blue Stilton £1.74 a lb; Christmas pudding, 750g, £1.75; 200g, 64p. British Home Stores: Christmas cake, decorated, 3lb 4oz, £6.50; iced, 3lb 1oz, £3.95; Christmas pudding, 1lb, £1.45; 2lb, £2.50; pear halves in white port, 540g, £2.15; peach halves in brandy, £2.15; black cherries in kirsch, £2.45; whole honey roast ham, approx 3lb, £6.30. Marks and Spencer: Smoked salmon pate, 4oz, 69p; Grand Marnier Yule log, 25oz, £3.99; double cream, 13oz, 79p; single, 10oz, 53p. Bejam: Beef roasting joints £1.79 a lb; pork boneless shoulder £1.19; Sellarena smoked salmon £3.49 for 14oz; for those with cooking problems, Bejam is offering an advice service on Christmas Eve from 9am to 4pm (tel 01-851 3418).

The pound

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	1.46	1.39
Austria Sch	26.45	25.15
Belgium Fr	75.90	71.90
Canada $	1.605	1.535
Denmark Kr	13.57	12.87
Finland Mkk	7.87	7.47
France Fr	11.52	10.97
Germany DM	3.76	3.58
Greece Dr	175.00	162.00
Hongkong $	9.55	8.95
Ireland Pt	1.215	1.155
Italy Lira	2305.00	2205.00
Japan Yen	305.00	289.00
Netherlands Gld	4.24	4.04
Norway Kr	10.82	10.42
Portugal Esc	205.00	195.00
South Africa Rd	2.42	2.26
Spain Pta	205.50	195.50
Sweden Kr	10.77	10.27
Switzerland Fr	3.10	2.95
USA $	1.22	1.17
Yugoslavia Dnr	305.00	285.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 355.6.

London: The *FT* index closed down 12.3 at 930.3.

Rail services

British Rail are operating special services with many extra trains over the Christmas and New Year holidays:

December 21/22: Normal services with additional InterCity trains.
December 23: Normal Sunday service; some trains retimed for a faster journey.
December 24: Saturday service with extra long distance trains in the early part of the day and on commuter lines during peak hours; last trains will reach their destinations by 10pm; no overnight trains.
December 25/26: No services.
December 27/28: Saturday service with extra peak hour trains on commuter routes; normal weekday service of overnight trains.
December 29: Normal Saturday service.
December 30: Normal Sunday service with some trains retimed for a faster journey.
December 31: Saturday service with additional peak hour trains on commuter routes; no overnight trains.
January 1: Saturday service on InterCity routes in England and Wales; Sunday service on other lines; no service in Scotland.
January 2: Normal Wednesday service in England and Wales; only long distance trains in Scotland.

Passengers are advised to check their train times before travelling. For those travelling longer distances, seats can be reserved on most trains. On some services usual catering facilities will not be available. Full details of alterations to train services available from main British Rail stations and travel centres.

Roads

The Midlands: M5: Lane restrictions between junction 4 (Birmingham SW, Bromsgrove) and 5 (Droitwich); also southbound carriageway closed overnight during the week, 9 pm to 6 am. A57: Only one lane with temporary lights near Lincoln Racecourse. A1: Lane closures northbound at junction 14, Alconbury flyover, Cambridgeshire.

The North: A616: Major roadworks from Deepcar, through Stockbridge to Langsett; delays. A679: Delays expected in Oswaldtwistle; sewerage works; temporary lights in use.

Wales and West: A354: Temporary lights at various locations between Salisbury and Puddletown Rd. M4: Severn Bridge: Please check on a daily basis the current situation regarding roadworks on the bridge; bridge No: 0272 218988. A48: Temporary lights; 24hrs between Cardiff and Chepstow at Pwllmeyric Hill, Chepstow.

Scotland: A94: Diversions N and S of Fordoun, Kincardinshire. A93: Subsidence 2 miles N of Blairgowrie; single line traffic control. A904: Road closed due to subsidence at Grangepans Rd, Bo'Ness; diversions in operation.

Information supplied by the AA

Portfolio

Portfolio – how to play

Monday–Saturday record your daily Portfolio total.

Add these together to determine your weekly Portfolio total.

If your total matches the published weekly dividend figure you have won outright or a share of the prize money stated for that week, and must claim your prize as instructed below.

How to claim

Telephone The Times Portfolio claims line 0254-53272 between 10.00 am and 3.30 pm, on the day your overall total matches The Times Portfolio Dividend. No claims can be accepted outside these hours.

You must have your card with you when you telephone.

If you are unable to telephone someone else can claim on your behalf but they must have your card and call The Times Portfolio claims line between the stipulated times.

No responsibility can be accepted for failure to contact the claims office for any reason within the stated hours.

The above instructions are applicable to both daily and weekly dividend claims.

● Some Times Portfolio cards include minor misprints in the instructions on the reverse side. These cards are not invalidated.

● *The wording of Rules 2 and 3 has been expanded from earlier versions for clarification purposes. The Game itself is not affected and will continue to be played in exactly the same way as before.*

Weather forecast

A cool unstable W airstream will become established over the UK.

6am to midnight

London, SE, central S, SW England, East Anglia, Midlands, Channel Islands, Wales: Dry with sunny periods after overnight fog and frost in places; wind W light; max temp 8C (46F).

E, central N, NE England: Mainly dry with sunny periods after overnight mist or fog patches; wind W light becoming moderate; max temps 5C (43F).

NE England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, W Scotland, Glasgow, Moray Firth, Northern Ireland: Rather cloudy with wintry showers, heavy in places; wind W strong locally gale; max temp 5C (41F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: Cloud and further rain spreading from the W tomorrow, followed by showers in the N on Sunday; mild in the S on Sunday.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea: Wind *NW fresh or strong; mainly fair;* visibility good; sea moderate or rough. Straits of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind NW moderate becoming variable light then SW moderate later; mainly fair; visibility good; sea slight. St George's Channel: Wind W or SW moderate; mainly fair; visibility good; sea slight. Irish Sea: Wind W or SW moderate or fresh locally strong in N; showers; visibility good; sea moderate locally rough in North.

Sun rises: 8.04 am. Sun sets: 3.54 pm

Moon rises: 7.09 am. Moon sets: 2.45 pm

New Moon: tomorrow.

Lighting-up time

London 4.24 pm to 7.35 am
Bristol 4.34 pm to 7.44 am
Edinburgh 4.10 pm to 8.13 am
Manchester 4.21 pm to 7.54 am
Penzance 4.52 pm to 7.49 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; dr, drizzle; f, fair; fg, fog; r, rain; s, sun.

		C	F			C	F
Belfast	r	7	45	Guernsey	f	11	52
Birmingham	c	10	50	Inverness	f	4	39
Blackpool	f	9	48	Jersey	fg	11	52
Bristol	dr	10	50	London	dr	11	52
Cardiff	c	11	52	Manchester	c	10	50
Edinburgh	s	6	43	Newcastle	f	8	48
Glasgow	f	7	45	Ronaldsway	c	9	48

London

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 13C (55F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 9C (48F). Humidity: 6 pm, 87 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.05in. Sun: 24hr to 6 pm, 0hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,012.6 millibars, steady.
1,000 millibars = 29.53in.

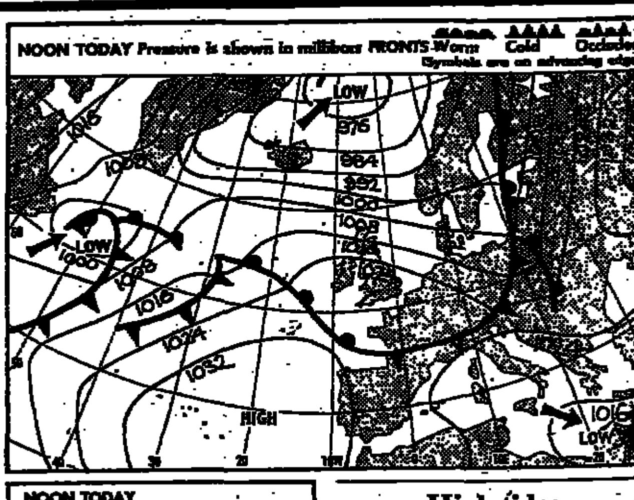
Highest and lowest

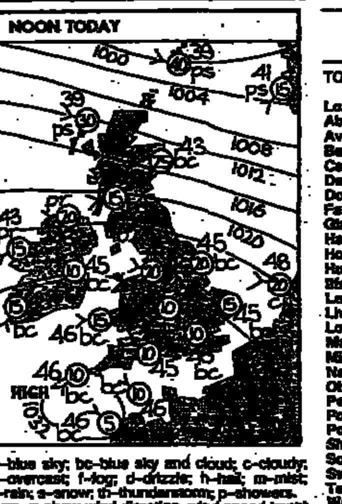
Yesterday: Highest day temp: London Weather Centre 13C (55F); lowest day max: Wick 4C (39F); highest rainfall: Glasgow 0.55in; highest sunshine: Bridlington 4.8 hr.

Our address

Information for inclusion in The Times Information Service should be sent to:
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b–blue sky; bc–blue sky and cloud; c–cloudy; o–overcast; f–fog; d–drizzle; h–hail; m–mist; r–rain; s–snow; th–thunderstorm; p–showers. Arrows show wind direction, wind speed (mph) circled, temperatures fahrenheit.

High tides

TODAY

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	12.27	6.9	12.45	6.7
Aberdeen			12.18	4.2
Avonmouth	6.0	12.7	6.22	12.7
Belfast	9.52	3.5	10.09	3.6
Cardiff	5.45	11.7	6.07	11.7
Devonport	4.34	5.4	4.59	5.3
Dover	9.41	6.5	10.16	6.4
Falmouth	4.04	5.2	4.29	[illegible]
Glasgow	11.53	4.6		
Harwich	10.30	3.8	11.03	3.7
Holyhead	9.05	5.4	9.28	5.5
Hull	4.51	7.2	5.26	7.2
Ilfracombe	4.38	8.7	5.02	8.8
Leith	1.0	5.5	1.29	5.4
Liverpool	10.0	9.1	10.24	9.2
Lowestoft	8.05	2.5	8.42	2.4
Margate	10.35	4.6	11.15	[illegible]
Milford Haven	4.57	6.7	5.22	[illegible]
Newquay	3.50	6.7	4.14	[illegible]
Oban	4.42	3.8	5.0	[illegible]
Penzance	3.35	5.5	3.58	5.4
Portland	5.41	2.1	6.09	[illegible]
Portsmouth	10.06	4.7	10.38	[illegible]
Shoreham	9.51	6.1	10.20	[illegible]
Southampton	9.37	4.5	10.06	[illegible]
Swansea	5.06	9.3	5.30	[illegible]
Tees	2.19	5.3	2.44	[illegible]
Walton-on-Naze	10.27	4.0	10.56	[illegible]

Tide measurement in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.

Around Britain

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Scarboro	3.0	–	9	48	sunny
Bridlington	4.8	.06	10	50	sunny
Cromer	–	.13	10	50	cloudy
Lowestoft	–	.28	10	50	rain am
Clacton	–	.07	11	52	drizzle
Margate	–	.01	12	54	drizzle
Folkestone	–	.16	11	52	drizzle
Hastings	–	.20	11	52	drizzle
Eastbourne	–	.38	12	54	rain
Brighton	–	.30	11	52	fog
Worthing	–	.13	11	52	rain pm
Littlehmptn					
Bognor R	–	.10	12	54	rain
Southsea	–	.11	12	54	cloudy
Shanklin	–	.20	12	54	rain
Bournemth	–	.20	12	54	rain
Poole	–	.28	12	54	rain
Swanage	–	.14	12	54	drizzle pm
Weymouth	–	.18	12	54	rain pm
Exmouth	0.1	.08	12	54	showers pm
Torquay	–	.14	12	54	rain pm
Falmouth	–	.26	12	54	showers
Penzance	–	.45	11	52	showers
Jersey	–	.42	12	54	rain
Guernsey	–	.47	13	55	rain
Scilly Isles	–	.36	12	54	drizzle
Newquay	–	.24	11	52	fog am
Ilfracombe	–	.27	11	52	drizzle
Tenby	–	.33	11	52	cloudy
Southport	2.3	–	10	54	cloudy
Morecambe	2.7	.23	9	48	bright
Douglas	2.7	.18	9	48	rain pm
London (Ctrl)	–	.08	13	55	cloudy
B'ham (Airpt)	1.1	.03	10	50	bright
Bristol (Ctrl)	–	.09	12	54	drizzle
Cardiff (Ctrl)	–	.30	11	52	fog
Anglesey	3.4	.06	11	52	rain pm
B'pool (Airpt)	3.6	.08	10	50	rain pm
Manchester	0.2	.06	10	50	bright pm
Nottingham	0.1	.02	10	50	drizzle
N'cstl-n-Tyne	1.4	.02	9	48	showers pm
Carlisle	2.1	.22	9	48	rain pm
Eskdalemuir	0.9	.50	6	43	rain pm
Prestwick	–	.43	8	45	showers
Glasgow	0.9	.55	7	45	showers
Tiree	1.7	.23	7	45	hail pm
Stornoway	1.7	.20	5	41	hail pm
Lerwick	0.5	.47	5	41	hail

Abroad

MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; fg, fog; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.

		C	F
Ajaccio	f	13	55
Akrotiri	f	17	63
Alexandria*	f	20	68
Algiers	f	15	59
Amsterdam	r	8	46
Athens	f	15	59
Bahrain	s	17	63
Barbados*	c	26	79
Barcelona	c	9	48
Beirut			
Belgrade	c	3	37
Berlin	c	5	41
Bermuda*	f	21	70
Biarritz	r	7	45
Boulogne	r	9	48
Bordeaux	r	6	43
Brussels	f	10	50
Budapest	f	3	37
Buen Aires*	f	21	70
Cairo*	c	21	70
Cape Tn	s	26	79
C'blanca			
Chicago*	c	-3	27
Ch'church*	f	27	81
Cologne	c	8	48
Copenhgn*	c	3	37
Corfu	c	15	59
Dublin	c	9	48
Dubrovnik	f	15	59
Faro	s	15	59
Florence	s	14	57
Frankfurt	c	6	43
Funchal	c	17	63
Geneva	s	4	39
Gibraltar	s	17	63
Helsinki*	c	0	32
Hong Kong	c	17	63
Innsbruck	s	1	34
Istanbul	s	11	52
Jeddah			
Jo'burg*	f	24	75
Karachi	f	19	26
Las Palmas	f	21	70
Lisbon	s	13	55
Locarno	f	5	41
L Angeles*	r	12	54
Luxembg	c	5	41
Madrid	f	4	39
Majorca	s	16	61
Malaga	s	17	63
Malta	f	16	61
Melbourne	c	19	66
Mexico C*	s	14	57
Miami	c	24	75
Milan	f	9	48
Montreal*	sn	-3	27
Moscow	c	-5	23
Munich	s	4	39
Nairobi	f	24	75
Naples	f	16	61
New Delhi	s	18	64
New York*	c	4	39
Nice	s	13	56
Oslo	r	6	43
Paris	d	10	50
Peking	s	3	37
Perth	s	31	88
Prague	s	3	37
Reykjavik	c	2	36
Rhodes	f	18	64
Riyadh	s	17	63
Rio de Jan	c	23	73
Rome	s	14	[illegible]
Salzburg	s	4	[illegible]
Sao Paulo*	c	21	[illegible]
S Francisco*	c	8	[illegible]
Santiago*	f	[illegible]	[illegible]
Seoul	s	3	[illegible]
Singapore	f	31	[illegible]
Stockholm	c	3	[illegible]
Strasbourg	c	7	[illegible]
Sydney	s	23	[illegible]
Tangier			
Tel Aviv	s	18	[illegible]
Tenerife	c	20	[illegible]
Tokyo	s	6	[illegible]
Toronto*	c	6	[illegible]
Tunis	c	12	[illegible]
Valencia	s	18	[illegible]
Vancouver*	c	-2	[illegible]
Venice	s	11	[illegible]
Vienna	f	0	[illegible]
Warsaw	c	5	[illegible]
Washington*	r	6	[illegible]
Wellington*	s	20	[illegible]
Zurich	s	5	[illegible]